

The Compiler

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

Summer 2000

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Authority Hosts Criminal Justice Planning Assembly

First step in developing a strategic plan for using federal and state resources to fight crime in Illinois



Highlights inside



Published by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

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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. The Authority works to enhance the information tools and management resources of state and local criminal justice agencies, and it serves as a statewide forum for criminal justice coordination, planning, and problem solving. It also is responsible for research, information systems development, and administration of federal anti-crime funds. The Authority's specific powers and duties are spelled out in the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Act [20 ILCS 3930/1 et seq.].

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is governed by an 18-member board of state and local leaders from the criminal justice system, plus experts from the private sector. Authority members help develop priorities and monitor their progress. The agency's day-to-day work is carried out by a full-time professional staff working out of the Authority's Chicago office.

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Printed by authority of the State of Illinois, August 2000. Printing order number: 01-001. Number of copies: 6,500. ISSN 1059-6569. Printed on recycled paper with soybean-based ink.

Circuit clerks to join Authority

Recently enacted legislation has added two circuit court clerks to the Authority, increasing the membership to 18. The legislation, which took effect July 9, added the clerk of the circuit court of Cook County and a clerk from another county to be named by the governor.

Authority research highlighted at national conferences

An Authority study of multijurisdictional drug task forces was recently featured at the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in New Orleans, and at the Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation in Washington, D.C. Co-principal investigators Dr. David Olson and Dr. Gerard Ramker made the presentations of preliminary data from analyses of arrests made by special enforcement units in Illinois compared to arrests made by local police departments. The study is being funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, and is a joint project between the Authority and Loyola University's Department of Criminal Justice.

Lawyer list spotlights Authority member, ICASA attorney

Authority member John Piland, and Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA) attorney Lyn Schollett were recently picked by their peers as being among "40 Illinois Attorneys Under 40 Years Old to Watch." The Law Bulletin Publishing Company compiled the list based on nominations solicited from attorneys throughout Illinois. Nominators were asked to identify attorneys who stood out from others their age, with lawyering skills getting strongest consideration.

Piland, 38, has been the Champaign County state's attorney for more than five years. Gov. Ryan appointed him to the Authority last year, and in May he was named to the Illinois Commission to Rewrite the Criminal Code. He also was a member of the Truth-in-Sentencing Commission and currently serves on the Illinois Children's Justice Task Force.

As counsel to ICASA, Schollett, 33, provides advice to 30 rape crisis centers around the state. In addition to providing immediate legal advice to clients, Schollett's work includes drafting legislation and working with lawmakers to develop laws that protect victims. She is president of Planned Parenthood Springfield Area.

Boehmer re-elected to NCJA post

Authority General Counsel Robert P. Boehmer was recently re-elected to the Board of Directors of the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA). The association is a Washington, D.C.-based special interest group that represents states on crime control and public safety issues. The 17-member board provides oversight of NCJA activities. ■

Highlights of the June 8-9 Criminal Justice Planning Assembly



Messages...

...from the Authority's Chairman:

Dear Reader:

More than a year ago, the Authority embarked on a new path for criminal justice planning in Illinois, one that would be comprehensive in its effort to direct the allocation of precious resources. The idea was simple: develop a coordinated, collaborative strategic plan for addressing critical criminal justice issues, and then set realistic and meaningful goals and objectives. The plan would be based on sound research and data, as well as expert opinion.

But developing such a plan is an ambitious undertaking, requiring participation from a broad cross section of community leaders, criminal justice and public health professionals. The first major step in this effort took place in Oak Brook on June 8th and 9th at the Criminal Justice Planning Assembly. More than 130 enthusiastic and dedicated participants from across the state joined together to help identify key criminal justice issues and to establish goals and objectives. The highlights of this very successful conference are contained in this issue of *The Compiler*.

This was just the first step in an ongoing process designed to improve the criminal justice system in Illinois. During this summer and into the fall, more information will be gathered and further discussions will be held with appointed and elected officials, program administrators, researchers and policymakers. Members of the Authority will then finalize and begin implementing a comprehensive, statewide criminal justice plan, which we will be continually updating.

Sincerely,

Peter B. Bensinger
Chairman
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

...and the Attorney General of Illinois:

Dear Reader:

We in the criminal justice system have learned that we cannot fight crime alone. We understand that violent crime is a public health as well as a public safety issue, and that we must bring a variety of disciplines together to develop comprehensive and coordinated approaches for making our communities safer.

And so I would like to congratulate the Authority's Planning and Research Committee, and the staff of the Authority, for successfully putting together the Criminal Justice Planning Assembly and setting the course for a collaborative planning process. And I would also like to thank the more than 130 participants whose dedication and commitment to such a process made this assembly such a success.

Our challenge now is to build on this success, and to continue to work as partners toward our common goal of fighting crime and promoting public safety.

Sincerely,

Jim Ryan
Attorney General of Illinois
Chairman of the Authority's Planning and
Research Committee

Overview of the assembly and planning process

By Gerard Ramker, Ph.D.

Director, Research and Analysis Unit

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

The Authority has begun a process for generating a comprehensive state plan to guide the allocation of the federal and state grant funds it administers. In the past, each program had its own planning process, which made it difficult to coordinate and collaborate. The single state planning project and the plan that is ultimately produced is intended to serve as a framework for a comprehensive statewide approach to coordinating the allocation and expenditure of these grant funds.

The planning process began to take shape about a year ago. At that time it was decided that a key feature of the process would be a Criminal Justice Planning Assembly. For the assembly, an *ad hoc* committee of about two dozen advisors helped devise background materials, key discussion questions, a pre-assembly survey and other aspects of this planning process and the assembly. Invitees to the assembly included representatives from law enforcement, prosecution, the judiciary, corrections, probation, victim service providers, offender treatment service providers, community-based programs, and public and mental health agencies.

Three goals were set for the inaugural Criminal Justice Planning Assembly:

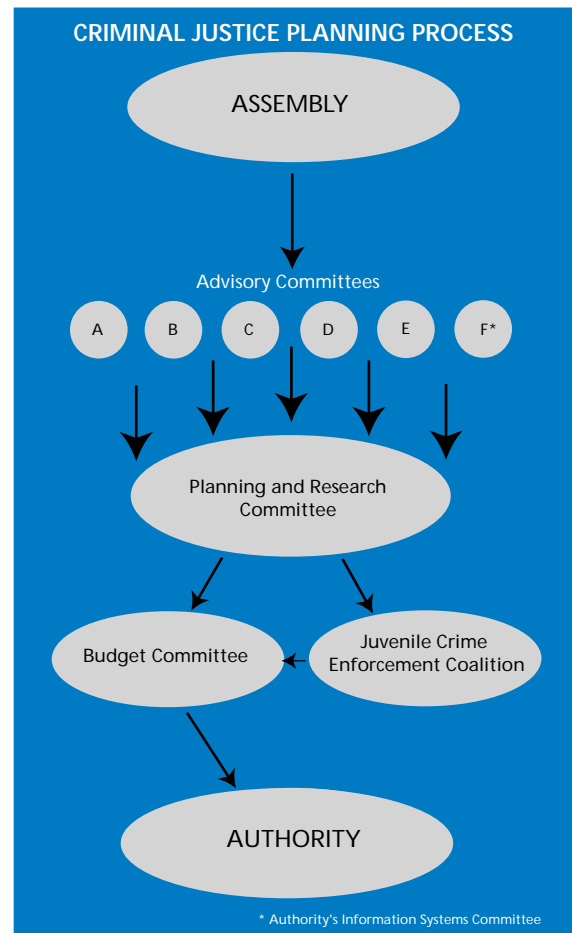
- 1) To identify and describe, using data, current research findings and the experiences of expert practitioners, the most pressing issues presently facing the justice system in Illinois;
- 2) To prioritize these problems; and
- 3) To suggest goals for each for the state.

At the assembly, attendees were invited to participate in one of six discussion groups to focus on a specific topic area: drug and violent crime; juvenile crime; victims of violent crime; offender services; community capacity building; and information systems and technology.

These groups raised additional issues that are being explored further in post-assembly discussion groups. The Authority also is devising ways to give various professional associations and others a formal opportunity to provide input on the plan.

The recommendations of all of these groups will be presented to the Planning and Research Committee, which will adopt priorities, goals and objectives, and set broad funding strategies in the form of an initial Criminal Justice Plan. Finally, the Authority's Budget Committee and the Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition are charged with designating implementing agencies for programs consistent with the plan.

The first Criminal Justice Planning Assembly then, provided a foundation for the development of a comprehensive plan, which reflects the concerns of a broad constituent group, is considerate of public and professional input, and is also based on experience and research. The plan will serve as a state-level guide for policy development, resource allocation, and administrative and legislative initiatives.



Keynote address

Our approach to crime and criminals: How we got here, what to do?

By Norval Morris, Ph.D.

Julius Kreeger Professor Emeritus
University of Chicago Law School

Keynote speaker Norval Morris was born in Auckland, New Zealand. Following service in the Australian army during World War II, he completed his LL.B. and LL.M. degrees at Melbourne University. In 1949, he received a Ph.D. in law and criminology and was appointed to the faculty of law at the London School of Economics. He joined the University of Chicago faculty in 1964. Mr. Morris is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has written extensively on the criminal justice system, including The Oxford History of the Prison (1995) with David Rothman.

I want to talk about the low esteem in which the criminal justice system is now held and what can be done about it. I want to talk about the problem of the large numbers this year to be released from our prisons. I want to talk a little about the capital punishment moratorium and what it portends for our prosecutorial, defense and court systems. And I want to tell you why those who preach "nothing works" are either misguided or deceitful.

In the quiet days before criminal justice policy became an object of party political controversy, a means of vote getting, that is to say before it was politicized by Goldwater, Nixon, Reagan, Bush, Clinton et.al., one could have a calm and sensible policy discussion about punishment issues. A discussion free from slogans, not particularly heated, and not relying on misinformation. That is now rare. Political claims and public beliefs, wildly contradictory to the facts, gravely and passionately complicate rational discussion and sensible planning. Let me suggest a few such erroneous beliefs.

I win bets in pubs in England and taverns in this country by disagreeing with the widespread belief that American crime rates are far higher than those of the countries with which we usually like to compare ourselves—far higher than England, the United Kingdom, the Western European countries, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. It is not so. Our property crime rates are quite ordinary compared with theirs. There is more larceny in London per 100,000 of population than in Chicago. The chances of being robbed, assaulted, or victimized by a stranger are higher in several other Western industrialized countries than in the U.S. Where we differ is in gun offenses and crimes of lethal or gravely serious violence, where our numbers are off the charts higher than theirs. A series of international studies since 1989 by official agencies in which the United States has played a major role establish these unappreciated facts.

Another erroneous belief is based on the first. It is said that the reason our prisons hold between six and 10 times the rate of prisoners more than the countries to which I refer is because our violent crime rates are higher. But these crimes of serious violence are a small part of our prison population and do not explain the factorial difference in each country's affection for incarceration. It is not our different crime rates that have produced our extraordinary rates of imprisonment, it is governmental policy; a product of either misguided intention or benign or malign neglect.

Consider another very popular political and public erroneous belief: Our "get tough on crime" policies are a major cause of the reduction of crime over the past nearly 10 years. I have heard this canard even in the hallowed halls of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. The trouble with this explanation is that the tough laws which are said to account for this reduction were enacted and enforced years after the decline in crime began. Thus mandatory minimums, three strikes, the 80 percent federal prison service rule as a condition of receiving federal funds (including funds for prison building), the "truth in sentencing" laws, all came some several years after the steady decline in crime had begun. Other factors, no one is sure to what extent, seem to account for the recent fall.

Of course, it cannot be denied that our move from about 300,000 prisoners in this country in 1972 to our nearly 2 million now—an astonishing increase—must have had some reductive effect on crime, but how much nobody knows.

Informed criminology can no longer avoid being historical and comparative. My excellent colleague Michael Tonry has pointed out that commentators of the left and the right, like Ted Robert Gurr, Roger Land and James Q. Wilson share the description of the pattern of crime rates we are living through and those we inherited. From the second quarter of the 19th century until the last quarter of the 20th century they followed a steady downward path, then rising until the recent decline since 1990. None of them attributes the long term or recent decline primarily to changes in criminal justice agencies or policies.

As an example, consider our drug policy: the harshest penalties followed rather than preceded the decline in drug abuse. In our era, self-reported use of marijuana, heroin, and amphetamines peaked for every age group in 1979-1980 (for cocaine in 1984-1985) and fell steadily thereafter. But the harshest federal anti-drug laws were not enacted until 1986 and 1988, and the first federal drug czar was not appointed until 1989. If reduced use of drugs was its aim, the "war on drugs" was won a decade before it was declared.

Harsh laws are often enacted when crime rates are already falling, which enhances people's predisposition to believe that harsh measures work. People who want to make year-to-year comparisons can easily suggest that the new tougher policies have been successful because crime rates have fallen in the years immediately after the change compared with the year before. This happened with New York City's adoption in the early 1990s of zero-tolerance policing, California's 1994 adoption of the three-strikes law, and the passage in many states in the mid-1990s of "truth in sentencing" laws. These may be plausible explanations to people who are not conversant with long-term crime trends, but to those who are so informed they are disingenuous.

Nevertheless, such beliefs bedevil efforts to devise rational and humane policies for crime and drugs, providing a plausible but false basis for claims that more severe punishments reduce crime.

But slowly a few anxious commentators begin to take note of the grave policy errors based on mistaken beliefs and move toward a degree of rationality. You see this most notably happening with our "war on drugs." Even our designated hitter, General McCaffrey, speaks off and on about the gross imbalance between interdiction and enforcement on one side and prevention and treatment on the other, and went so far as to suggest that something of the order of 250,000 lower-level drug addicts should be released from prison and treated otherwise.

And a degree of cynicism about the whole criminal court and punishment apparatus grows, with the finding that in the last few years in Illinois 13 men who had been convicted of capital murder and put on death row to await their execution were wrongfully convicted, and many of those were utterly innocent and in no way connected with the crime that had brought them near to death. Illinois is no different from other states, in my view, in the conviction of the innocent; the difference is that a few people outside the criminal justice system in Chicago and

New York, but so far few elsewhere, have been trying to find these cases of the convicted innocent.

This latter topic, and the moratorium which Governor Ryan, much to his credit, declared—probably against his political interest—throws more into the hopper of discussion than its supporters appreciate. It is not going to be easily solved by some cosmetic improvements to the defense of the indigent charged with capital offenses. Too many scandals related to convicting the innocent touch the police and the courts generally for this, and DNA looms as a powerful defense weapon as well as a powerful prosecutorial weapon. For every one wrongfully convicted of murder (who was facing execution) there must be 10 or so similarly convicted though innocent of other lesser crimes. The answer offered, that death is different and requires a more level playing field between prosecution and defense can hold no validity in the face of the severity of our punishment for felonies generally.

Take another issue to drive home the point I am trying to make of the unreliability of condign deterrence as a basis for a criminal justice policy. In this year, the year 2000, the first year of the new millennium, some 600,000 prisoners will be released from federal and state prisons. They came, when they went to prison, disproportionately from ethnic and racial minorities, they were young, ill-educated, lacking employable skills in an increasingly complex market, on the edge of abandonment or having been abandoned by their families, living in cultural pockets of high rates of poverty and crime, disease and unemployment. Recall that nearly 40 percent of black children live in poverty in this rich country and that so many of these also live in the pockets of misery I have mentioned. Too many go to prison. Given our increasingly severe and long sentences, they spend long and wasted years in prison where there are now reduced opportunities for self-education, less chance to learn a trade, to learn other marketable skills, to learn how to behave in a changing society, and over the years their families, such as they had, have fallen away from them. More important than all that, or perhaps the most important part of all that, their self-image as worthwhile contributing citizens has been debased.

Consider the problem posed by these prisoners when they are released. I am informed and the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit has confirmed it, that on the order of 600,000 prisoners will be released from prisons in the United States in this millennial year, 2000. Approximately 25,000 will be released in Illinois. These figures do not count the millions released and to be released this year from jails here and in other states. The recidivist rate for these 600,000 prisoners is not small. Does that mean that we can expect a measurable increase in crime rates? Not at all. This revolving door of ex-inmates has been with us for a long time, but we begin to inherit the errors of the last quarter of the 20th century in larger numbers because of our mindless "get tough" criminal justice policies of that quarter century. See, we didn't get rid of them. It's like trying to cut off the water from the hose by extending the hose. We have an increasing aging stage

army of ex-convicts with us. Aging will decrease their criminality but the long years in prison without any adequate training programs will increase their criminality.

So, even if these 600,000 don't make matters worse at least they increase the sum of human misery for their particular victims, for themselves and for those few who may still care for them.

The Vera Institute, a leader in innovative and practical demonstration projects, has recently reported on a study following-up 200 releasees in New York for three months after their release, and has shown clearly just how very difficult it is to re-establish oneself in the community after protracted imprisonment, and how very much informed assistance and control counts.

The recent plans for the establishment of "re-entry courts" is intended to address this problem. I am in doubt about it. There is little at present, it seems to me, to indicate that adding judges to the aftercare control and assistance systems will achieve nearly as much as adding resources of funds, facilities, and front-of-the-line treatment personnel to those systems.

But "nothing works," they say. Rehabilitation is discredited as a purpose of imprisonment, they say. Again error and misunderstanding. As every warden knows, some prisoners do manage to educate themselves in prison, do learn trades and skills, do manage to graduate to a contributing and law-abiding life. But many do not, and of that many there is a substantial number who have become more criminally oriented by the years wasted in prison and their associates there.

Is it any wonder that, unlike the popular view, many students of the criminal justice system believe that, overall, prison as it exists in this country is criminogenic rather than crime reductive. The wonder is that the simple and compelling argument for expanded training and self-development programs in prison is not widely accepted and acted on in this country.

Thus, I welcome this increasing cynicism, the gradual public and political boredom with the repetition of the same old tired reliance on zero tolerance, deterrence, and long sentences as a means of bringing peace to our society.

And for you who control Byrne money and other federal and state memorial goodies and forfeiture money, the path to rationality is less complicated. Put your funds and efforts disproportionately into areas of the criminal justice system that cut against the current mistaken beliefs, give more funds and facilities to drug treatment for addicts, particularly treatment in the community. Put your money and efforts into the pre-release programs in prison that are followed up by half-way house accommodation and graduated release procedures in the community while the ex-prisoner finds work or begins to work. Rectify, to the extent you can, the unwise balance between funds for punishment and imprisonment on the one hand and funds for community-based crime prevention and treatment programs on the other. ■

Drug and violent crime

David Olson, Ph.D., facilitator

Tracy Hahn, Robert Bauer, and Robert Taylor, staff

The participants in the Drug and Violent Crime Workgroup discussed a variety of topics and issues pertaining to drug use, including the availability of drugs, the inadequacy of treatment programs, and sanctions for drug offenses. They also discussed violent crime, including what precipitates violence, how violence has become normalized in our society, and the need for early intervention and prevention efforts. The group consisted primarily of law enforcement, prosecution, and probation officials, with a few participants from the academic, rehabilitation, and prevention fields.

Critical issues

It was clear from the group discussion that participants felt the criminal justice system cannot stand alone in addressing drug use, treatment and violence prevention. One priority issue identified by the group is the need to combine continued strong enforcement from the criminal justice system with efforts from other agencies and the community. More information is needed on drug and violent offenders to help with enforcement efforts and treatment.

Another priority issue is the difference in crime in rural areas versus urban areas. Although attitudes toward gun use and the

levels of drug use and violence differ, they still remain problems in rural counties. A solution for one area may not work for another. In all regions, there is a need to make sure the punishment for violent offenses fits the crime.

Many of the priority issues discussed dealt with drug treatment. In addition to the lack of information on drug offenders, there is a lack of information on drug treatment. This includes information on the duration of treatment programs and which programs have been found to work most effectively. Many treatment providers do not have adequate training, and accessibility to treatment continues to be a problem. Another issue is that there is a belief that treatment does not work, and as a result, treatment is underutilized. More needs to be done to keep offenders in treatment and monitor drug use while offenders are under the supervision of the criminal justice system.

Goals and objectives

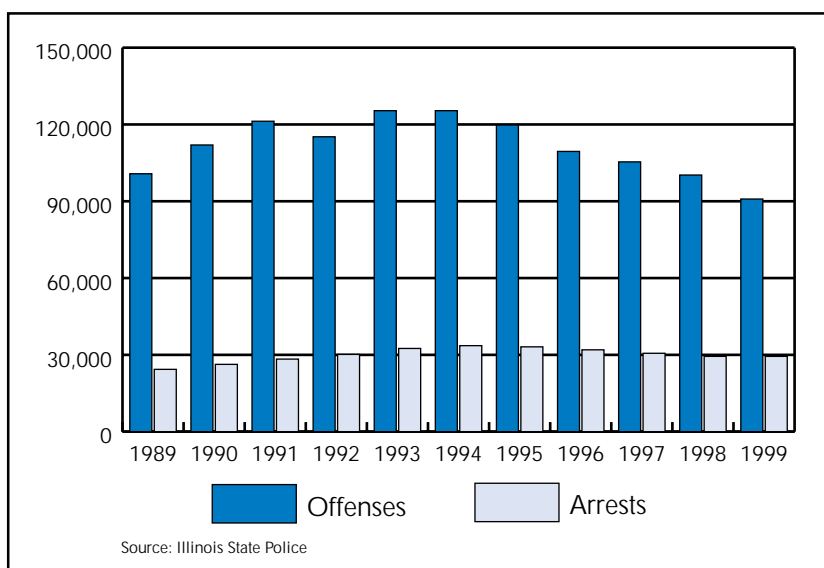
The goals identified by the Drug and Violent Crime Workgroup focused on drug treatment and enforcement efforts; working with the community; aftercare efforts; gathering information about and targeting specific types of offenders; and communication.

The group noted that there is a need to recognize that the system is having an impact, and that violent crime is on the decline. Also, drug dealers are aware of law enforcement efforts and are taking less risk to engage in business.

The group also noted that drug and violent crime involve very complex issues. Addressing the problem cannot be solely the responsibility of the criminal justice system. There is a clear need to have commitment and cooperation from the community, including religious organizations, and treatment, education, and other social service providers. Still, the criminal justice system, and its professionals, can take a leadership role in forging these relationships.

We should continue the efforts currently in place, including attacking drug offenses from all levels. A multifaceted approach to drug enforcement is necessary, using local agencies for street-level sellers and users, multijurisdictional task forces for mid-level sellers and dealers, and federal agencies for high-level traffickers. Although it varies across the state, there also was a perceived need to more effectively engage federal

Violent crime offenses and arrests in Illinois





Members of the Drug and Violent Crime Workgroup confer.

agencies in their support, including information sharing and prosecuting particular cases.

Another goal was to develop programs that more effectively target specific types of individuals, particularly those involved in serious violent crime, offenses involving firearms, and drug offenses. Much of this could be accomplished through the development of programs with the resources needed to identify the most serious offenders.

There is a need to more effectively provide aftercare and monitoring services to offenders in the system, including both probationers and parolees, and in some instances, pre-trial defendants. For both violent and drug offenders, there is a need for:

- More information at the time of sentencing/release (complete pre-sentence investigation, substance abuse assessment, etc);
- Increased monitoring while under correctional supervision (e.g., urinalysis at times throughout supervision);
- Adequate and appropriate services, at the right time; and
- Taking advantage of the leverage provided with offenders under probation or parole supervision to engage and keep the offenders in treatment.

There also is a need for better treatment. The group recognized that treatment is not used as much as it should be due to a variety of factors, including:

- Lack of information about the effectiveness of treatment among specific populations;
- Lack of awareness among criminal justice professionals regarding how treatment operates;
- Lack of belief in treatment among criminal justice professionals; and
- Prior experience working with ineffective treatment providers.

The group felt that some things could be done to improve treatment, the belief in treatment, and the experiences criminal justice professionals have with the treatment community. Specifically:

- The criminal justice system needs to be more involved with the treatment community, particularly at the level of policy making and resource allocation, so as to understand the establishment of priority populations.
- The treatment community, particularly treatment providers, need to better understand the criminal justice system's operations, organization, needs, and requirements when it comes to treatment for offender populations. The group proposed that treatment providers receive training specifically in the operations, organization, and requirements of the criminal justice system.
- Criminal justice officials, particularly judges, need to better understand the provision of substance abuse treatment, how it operates, how effective it can be, and its limitations.
- There is a need for quality control in drug treatment programs. ■

Workgroup participants:

Steven Allendorf
Albert Apa
Matt Bettenhausen
Mark Bramlett
James Donahue
Steve Fermon
Lawrence Fichter
Norbert Goetten
David Gould
Mary Griffin
Mark Henry
Michael Hughes

Sam Nolen
William O'Brien
John Piland
Bill Simmons
Jude Skallurep
Gary Slutkin
Mike Smith
Robert Spence
Dave VanLandegen
Ralph Weisheit
Timothy Witney

Juvenile crime

Mark Myrent, facilitator

Sharyn Adams, Mildred Cox, and Phil Stevenson, staff

The Juvenile Crime Workgroup included a wide range of participants from local, state, and private agencies that address delinquent and/or troubled youth in various ways. Besides juvenile justice components, there were group members who were involved in the identification, referral, and provision of services to youth or in the development of programs in these areas and in prevention.

Critical issues

Information and data systems

The workgroup noted that there is a lack of information about juvenile offenders, their contacts with juvenile justice agencies, and other relevant contacts with school officials, social service agencies, and mental health services. The lack of individual case-level information leads to ill-informed decision-making on juvenile cases, resulting in poor treatment and program referrals, as well as ineffective measures geared toward public safety. At present there is also a lack of interagency sharing, and officials who come in contact with juveniles often do not know their prior histories.

The lack of reliable and consistent aggregate data, on the other hand, makes it difficult to develop good juvenile justice laws and policies.

Information sharing and better data collection are issues that require monetary resources, and, if not addressed, can result in poor outcomes for delinquents and other troubled children, as well as uninformed policymaking and program planning.

Confidentiality

From the discussion of information sharing between agencies, the issue of confidentiality came into view. Due to strict confidentiality issues, information sharing is impeded, constructing a barrier to children getting early, and often critical, interventions.

While it was agreed that some level of confidentiality is necessary, participants noted that there needs to be a new global view on confidentiality issues that corresponds to the recent changes in the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, and the need for community-based prevention and early intervention activities.

The confidentiality issue is one that, if not dealt with, can result in poor outcomes for delinquents and other troubled kids. It can also result in poor public policy and inhibit collaborative responses.

Risk factors

The workgroup also discussed the importance of identifying and responding to risk factors as a delinquency prevention measure. The workgroup noted the importance of juvenile justice agencies knowing what those risk factors are and how to determine if a child is facing them. Participants noted that it was important for school personnel, health care workers, and others who work with young people to be able to identify youths at risk and intervene prior to criminal justice system involvement.

Failure to identify and respond to risk factors can increase the likelihood that a juvenile will offend or re-offend. By not counteracting risk factors with a positive influence, the transition from troubled youth to troubled adult increases. It also will become more costly to deal with troubled juveniles as they progress through the system.

Early intervention and prevention

In a related area, the workgroup also discussed the need for early intervention and prevention. The group noted that there is a need to use education resources more efficiently, and emphasized that the education system must be involved in early intervention.

Early intervention is more effective and less costly than later intervention and will minimize the need for long-term treatment. It will also help prevent future delinquency, drug abuse, and other maladaptive behavior.

Juveniles with mental health and other special needs

The workgroup discussed the issue that youth with mental health needs often come into the juvenile justice system because there is nowhere else for them to go. The participants felt that youth with mental health problems would be better served by the health care system, especially when youth require residential treatment. Unfortunately, treatment programs often do not want to accept these cases until they become stabilized. In addition, they may not have room for additional youth in their program. As a result, the parents or guardians will rely upon the juvenile justice system once the problem behavior manifests itself in lawbreaking activity.

At these early stages of delinquency, however, the juvenile is likely to be in the “wrong” system. It is necessary to find out which system is best equipped to help the juvenile, not which system is the easiest or most convenient in which to place the juvenile.

Cost is often an issue when addressing the needs of youth with mental health issues. Private facilities are expensive, and often are unaffordable to either the parents or to the community. Adequate resources for community-level responses and affordable treatment programs need to be provided so juveniles do not get pushed aside.

Collaborative response

The workgroup considered the need to formulate a collaborative and multi-disciplinary response to troubled youth, and recommended the creation of partnerships between juvenile agencies and the pooling of resources.

There is much fragmentation of services at the local level. Many programs do not know what treatments or interventions other programs are offering, and there is often duplication of services and large gaps in other services. A continuum of services is more cost effective than a piecemeal approach, and would ensure fewer gaps in services and fewer turf battles between agencies.

Resource allocation

The workgroup looked at the need to decentralize funding, recommending that the juvenile justice system examine funding collaboratively instead of individually. Agencies and programs need to pool their resources in order to be as effective as possible and get the most benefit from funding sources.

Goals and objectives

Information and data systems

- There should be standardization of data elements and compatibility of data systems that contain various juvenile records.
- A centralized and integrated reporting system needs to be developed that links agencies together and speaks in a common language.
- This system should include not only juvenile justice agencies, but also schools and treatment providers — to obtain specific information such as dropout and truancy problems, and previous assessments and services received.

Confidentiality

- Agencies should facilitate the exchange of information while safeguarding privacy rights.

Risk factors

- Practical information on how to recognize risk factors and how to respond to them in a positive manner needs to be presented to people who deal with youth.
- Once the information has been distributed, training and cross-training of different groups and agencies needs to be done to ensure that risk factors are known across groups and that information can be shared between these groups.

Early intervention and prevention

- Problem behavior needs to be addressed before it results in involvement in the juvenile justice system.

- The family and other care givers need to be included along with the juvenile in any service provision plans.
- A marketing approach to funding collaborative intervention should be developed.

Juveniles with mental health and other special needs

- Center treatment for youth around the family.
- Certain services need to be available to everyone, not just to those who can afford them or who are lucky enough to not be on a waiting list to enter the program.
- Identify who will deliver these services and who will fund them.
- Before programs are funded, research findings should be examined that identify specific factors which lead to delinquency, and which programs are effective in addressing those needs.
- There needs to be more effective follow-up for juveniles who have completed treatment programs.

Need for collaboration

- The state needs to support and encourage multi-disciplinary responses in the community, including program planning, training, technical support, and funding/resource allocation.
- Programs and services need to center around the youth and the family.
- A complete and seamless treatment approach needs to be developed and implemented with the support of the community and all agencies involved.

Resource allocation

- Reduce constraints on funding eligibility.
- Allow greater input by the community and have resource allocations driven by community members.
- Communities need to identify local resources that have gone untapped, and have agencies communicate with each other in order to maximize these funding resources. ■

Workgroup participants:

Cheryl Cesario	Esther Jenkins
Gary Duerkoop	Kip Owen
Ron Ellis	Barbara Shaw
Michael Fendrich	Bill Sifferman
Ralph Grayson	Loren Simmons
Victoria Gwiasda	Anne Studzinski
Sophia Hall	Eileen Subak
John Harris	
James Janik	

Victims of violent crime

Karen Richards, facilitator

Anne Tillett, Kelly MacDowell, and Jennifer Hiselman, staff

Participants in the Victims of Violent Crime Workgroup identified a number of critical issues facing the criminal justice system and victim service providers. The group consisted of representatives from prosecution, law enforcement, probation and parole services, victim services agencies, and state agencies.

The group felt that the criminal justice system needs to shift its focus so it is more victim oriented. Workgroup participants felt that collaboration was the key to addressing many of the issues identified. However, participants noted real collaboration is not easily achieved and working to ensure that the system and service providers are working together to improve the system was a major priority. The group felt community members and other professionals such as health care providers and schools also need to be involved.

Critical issues

Data collection

Workgroup participants discussed the data presented and identified gaps in the information available. Participants felt that available data is insufficient in terms of victimization trends and service needs. Additional data is also needed to determine the impact of services and to identify the most effective services. In addition, Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) data should include more information about the victim, such as age, race, and relationship to the offender.

Training

Participants of the workgroup also felt strongly that additional training was necessary for all persons in the criminal justice system and for victim service providers. Members believed training for all entities should incorporate a focus on victims, and that such training was necessary in order to treat victims with sensitivity and compassion and to ensure their rights are being met.

Training was seen as a priority for all areas of the system. It was felt that current training for system professionals does not sufficiently address the needs and rights of victims. The group agreed that multidisciplinary training was essential to understanding each player's role in the system.

Collaboration of members of the criminal justice system and victim service providers

Collaboration was identified as a critical need within victim services and the criminal justice system. Participants agreed it was necessary to improve the system's response to victims. Participants also felt that collaboration would allow limited resources to be used more effectively by ensuring that any duplication of efforts be minimized.

Members of the group acknowledged that true collaboration could not happen without buy-in from the heads of partner agencies. Members of the group felt those in leadership positions must make it a priority to improve the system's response to victims and reinforce this priority through their protocols, actions, and words.

System accountability

Participants in the workshops agreed upon the need for the system to be more accountable to victims and the community. Three primary issues were identified: the lack of awareness of victims' rights by criminal justice professionals and victims themselves, the lack of recourse for victims who believe their rights have been violated, and the need to hold the system accountable for its actions.

Service needs

Services for victims were identified as a critical issue. Participants discussed the need to enhance basic services,



Victims of Violent Crime Workgroup facilitator Karen Richards delivers her group's report to the assembly.

recommending strengthening and expanding basic services to improve the system's response to victims and their families. The group discussed the need to reinforce the infrastructure of what is currently being provided. They felt that opportunities for higher salaries, training, and funding for materials and equipment needs would help to improve the overall quality of services being provided.

Participants also discussed the need for more services to populations with special needs, such as those in rural areas, the elderly, children, female offenders, and non-English speaking victims.

Participants felt that the system and service providers are doing a number of things well, but most agreed that current services need to be foundationally solid before expansion takes place. Although the group felt that additional services are needed for special populations, most felt that additional services should not be implemented unless basic services for existing programs are sufficient.

The group noted that it is important to build upon services known to be effective. These services need to be identified among all providers and coordinated to ensure they are complementing each other.

Goals and objectives

Accountability

Members of the workgroup stated that increasing the accountability of the criminal justice system will help ensure that the system meets its responsibilities to victims and the community. To reach that goal, the following should be accomplished:

- Collect data related to decisions made at both the law enforcement and prosecution levels.
- Develop a strategy to ensure victims are informed of available services and educated about their rights.
- Develop a system of recourse for victims who feel their rights have been violated.
- Educate the public and criminal justice professionals about victims' rights and victim services available.

Training

In terms of training, the workgroup identified the need to:

- Develop or revise training for all criminal justice professionals to include a victim perspective.
- Develop training that is tailored to the context of the community and its populations.
- Provide training for new service provider professionals as well as experienced professionals to improve their response to victims.

Data collection

Another goal of the workgroup was to improve data collection efforts to better target needs throughout the state. Specifically, members felt that it was necessary to:

- Improve the utility of UCR data.
- Conduct a victimization survey in Illinois.
- Increase accessibility of data for agencies while maintaining confidentiality.
- Identify data collection strategies.

Collaboration

The need to increase collaboration among criminal justice personnel and other professionals that work with victims was identified as a goal. In order to collaborate more effectively, participants agreed it was necessary to:

- Develop training on how to effectively collaborate.
- Identify ways for all victim professionals to gain an increased understanding of other agencies' goals and perspectives.
- Promote buy-in from top-level agency employees.
- Develop policies of institutionalized collaboration that include all levels of personnel within agencies.

Service needs

The final goal identified by the group was to strengthen and expand existing services and to develop additional services for special populations. To do so, the workgroup felt it was necessary to:

- Define what is meant by basic and specialized services.
- Identify services that are most effective and strengthen them.
- Develop priorities for specialized services after basic services are fully sufficient.
- Identify additional nontraditional resources to augment existing ones.
- Encourage funding agencies to work together to identify any duplication of efforts and gaps in services and to also use the funds in ways so they compliment each other.

Overall, workgroup participants felt that much was being done well, but the achievement of these goals would enable the criminal justice system and victim service providers to be more responsive to victims of violent crime. ■

Workgroup participants:

Stephen Baker
Jackie Buckley
Nancy Carlson
Susan Catania
Mike Costigan
Martha Daly
Rick Einfeldt
Kris Hamilton
Stephanie Hogle
John Kinsella
Billie Larkin

Jeffrey McNeal
John Millner
Martha Newton
Cheryl Peterson
Polly Poskin
Joan Rappaport
Madeline Rich
Maureen Robinson
Erin Sorenson
Deborah Whitworth

Offender services

Maureen Brennan, facilitator

Christine Martin, Ron Reichgelt, and Erica Morrow, staff

The Offender Services Workgroup included representation from each component of the criminal justice system and members of the research, treatment and faith-based ministry communities. In its discussion, the workgroup identified the critical need for a true continuum of intervention that begins and ends in the community. These interventions must make use of the body of knowledge on best practices and the effectiveness of treatment, while maximizing the use of available resources.

To implement best practices, components of the criminal justice system must enhance communication across disciplines and initiate partnerships with the community to build capacity for change.

The main objective of the Offender Services Workgroup was to seek ways to reduce recidivism and improve the safety and well-being of individuals, families and communities.

Critical issues

Crime policy

Participants agreed that crime control policy is too often reactive, and too infrequently based on research and established best practices. Group members expressed concern regarding over-reliance on incarceration for certain offenses while other offenses go unpunished. The consistent growth in prison sentences for drug crime has swelled the correctional population, yet a critical shortage of treatment services for offenders severely limits the availability of the intervention necessary for rehabilitation.

Conversely, the criminal justice system still has not adequately accepted domestic violence as a crime. While great strides have been made in addressing domestic violence through the establishment of protocols and specialized courts, members agreed that domestic violence courts are sometimes implemented more to manage high caseloads than to effect change. Domestic violence diversion programs' use of treatment as a sanction, and expunging of arrests upon completion, trivialize the crime and return an unchanged and unpunished offender to the community and most often to the victim. Participants supported the implementation of a consistent statewide approach to domestic



Members of the Offender Services Workgroup identify goals and objectives.

violence as well as developing a way to identify repeat offenders within and across jurisdictions. While participants disagreed on whether the cycle of violence and control dynamic of domestic violence demanded specialized intervention, they agreed that more research was necessary to gauge the effectiveness of domestic violence treatment.

Offender participation in treatment

A considerable part of the group's discussion focused on offender participation in treatment. While some members expressed frustration at offender non-participation in treatment, others noted that the system does not always foster that participation. Members emphasized the need to focus on offenders' criminogenic factors in designing interventions that must begin the process of changing a lifetime of antisocial attitudes and associates.

Members advocated for the use of incentives and rewards to encourage offender participation in services and agreed that it is the responsibility of the system to foster offenders' willingness and ability to change.

Building a continuum of services

While the group supported targeted services for offenders with special needs, it was agreed that an improvement in the quality of assessment, treatment, and transitional services was necessary for the general population of offenders in order to effect any real change. The group cited a need to expand the pre-release services for incarcerated offenders to help them make a successful transition to the community.



Jan Chaiken, Ph.D., director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, delivers a keynote address on crime and incarceration.

While the effectiveness of offender services is determined by the effectiveness of offender assessment, members noted that there is no uniformity of assessment across the state and no uniform use of assessment outcomes. Use of comprehensive assessment enables the system to match offender needs to services, providing the system with a map to guide successful intervention.

Commitment of the system to effect change

Participants acknowledged that it is the system's responsibility to provide opportunities for change, and the responsibility of offenders to take advantage of these opportunities. Even where specialized courts with treatment focuses have been started, staff members rotate through these assignments too quickly to establish any continuity or institutionalize relationships between the partner agencies.

The criminal justice system needs to make a real commitment to these new strategies for intervention by making specialized courts attractive to staff and by providing sufficient training on the research that guided the strategy. System participants must understand the range of available treatment services and sanctions and how they are best used in specialized court settings.

Similarly, the great disparity between the need for offender services and the availability of these services demonstrates the system's current inability to implement necessary interventions. The shortage of services forces the system to mete out limited treatment resources so that few offenders receive sufficient services. The system must make a commitment to greatly increase the availability and quality of treatment resources.

Building partnerships

One of the key issues identified by the group was the lack of cohesion and communication between criminal justice agencies. Participants agreed that all criminal justice entities should act as part of a system, rethinking the role each plays, and developing

strategies that maximize limited resources. This evolving partnership of agencies must understand its power to help offenders change and its responsibility to provide access to services that will facilitate that change.

Goals and objectives

Develop information-based perceptions, policies, and programs

- Identify and address gaps in knowledge affecting offender services in Illinois.
- Disseminate this information to stakeholders, policymakers, and the public.
- Enhance the capacity of agencies to evaluate the impact of agency services and interventions.

Close the gap between offender needs and available services

- Universally implement accurate and comprehensive assessment of offender risk, need, and responsivity.
- Provide a continuum of interventions to ensure that all components of the criminal justice system maximize opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders into the community.
- Expand offender access to competent, effective rehabilitative services through a holistic approach.
- Expand service capacity to meet the needs of all offenders.
- Create and maximize resources.

Build partnerships among stakeholders

- Create a dialogue involving criminal justice professionals, service providers, researchers, community leaders, and members of the faith and medical communities.
- Develop common goals of this partnership.
- Identify and address barriers to information sharing among partners and potential participants.
- Implement an ongoing evaluation of collaborative efforts and train partners to participate fully. ■

Workgroup participants:

Olga Becker	Gerald Hanson
John Bentley	Barbara Hayler
Jennifer Black	Dimitri Kesari
Craig Chval	Arthur Lurigio
Pat Davis	Maureen McDonnell
Phyllis DeMott	Manny Mill
Kim Donahue	Allen Nance
Robert Dougherty	Theodore Paine
Rita Fry	Jody Sundt
Joseph Gordon	William Watts
Margie Groot	

Community capacity building

Karen Griffiths, facilitator

Gail Woods, Gary Kupsak, Derrick Harden, and Karen McCanna, staff

The Community Capacity Building Workgroup spent the first of three sessions defining community capacity building (CCB). The second session was spent identifying issues that foster and inhibit the ability of stakeholders to embrace CCB. Participants also explored the process of mobilizing the community to define problems and develop solutions to public safety concerns. During the final session, the workgroup recommended goals to be incorporated into a statewide criminal justice planning document.

The workgroup included representation from community-based organizations, victim services providers, public health agencies, law enforcement and juvenile justice practitioners, and academic researchers.

Critical issues

Community empowerment

The workgroup was initially presented with an overview of programs in Illinois that involve community participation. The immediate reaction from the group was that individual programs cannot define community capacity building. Rather, it is a philosophy to be embraced by key stakeholders.

The workgroup determined that they needed to establish a working definition of CCB, and they started by looking at the Authority's proposed definition: "empowering community stakeholders." Stakeholders can instill confidence and empower a community by demonstrating that they are equal partners and that their input will make a difference.

Systems change

Workgroup members felt that criminal justice agencies need to adopt the philosophy that the community is a critical partner in identifying problems and creating solutions related to public safety. Players in the criminal justice system need to listen to the community and tap existing networks.

The community as a stakeholder can maximize the ability of the criminal justice system to identify and resolve problems. Agencies need to consider forming nontraditional partnerships

with groups such as residents, community groups, faith leaders, schools, social service providers, and the media. These entities should become permanent partners in the actions, policies, and philosophies of the criminal justice system.

Agencies that begin to embrace the community as a key stakeholder have to commit to systems change. The inclusion of the community may challenge existing policies and require reorganization. The work environment of an agency may be altered because CCB requires ongoing community outreach. The need for community outreach will also demand agency diversity.

Process

Community capacity building involves a process. The workgroup participants discussed several elements that are essential to successful CCB:

- **Assessing the community.** The assessment of a community includes collecting and analyzing data, identifying leadership, determining available resources, and examining community assets.
- **Community mobilization.** Mobilization can occur through education, communication, and evidence that community participation will make a difference. Mobilization can begin when a community is provided with information in a way that is valuable and meaningful to them.
- **Continued outreach.** Once solutions have been identified and programs have been implemented, key stakeholders must continue to have a presence in the community.
- **Ongoing assessment.** Communities, as well as cooperating agencies, need to re-evaluate the community, reassess the composition of an ever-changing population, observe who the program is reaching and who is not being helped, determine whether displacement is occurring, and revisit solutions.
- **Evaluation.** Formal evaluation should be built into initiatives to assess whether the programs have the intended effect.
- **Coordinated system response.** Agencies within the criminal justice system need to coordinate initiatives in communities.

The community as a stakeholder can maximize the ability of the criminal justice system to identify and resolve problems.



Professor Irving Spergel of the University of Chicago discusses an issue with other members of the Community Capacity Building Workgroup.

Agencies have a responsibility to make sure their responses enhance, not duplicate, existing efforts. Also, stakeholders have to share information.

- **Training.** Training, education, and technical assistance are necessary for all of the stakeholders. Training will enhance stakeholders' ability and willingness to work collectively. Education and technical assistance can also teach communities how to play an integral part in planning.

Responding to neighborhoods and target populations

Workgroup members recognize that the capacity of every community is distinct, and every neighborhood will have different strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, the wealth of each group must be assessed individually. Also, the key people identified in every community will vary. The premise of community capacity building is tailoring specific responses to meet the needs of individual communities or neighborhoods.

Information sharing and dissemination

The criminal justice system needs to "package" and distribute information to the community so that the community understands issues and problems relevant to them.

Goals

- **The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority should assume a leadership role in promoting the philosophy of community capacity building.** The workgroup agreed the Authority had taken an important first step by convening a workgroup dedicated to the discussion of community capacity building. The group also felt that the Authority could influence the inclusion of the community by establishing a set of goals addressing CCB in a statewide criminal justice planning document.
- **Educate stakeholders on their ability to foster community capacity building.** Workgroup participants agreed that key stakeholders, such as neighborhoods, community groups, and criminal

justice agencies would benefit from training that addresses the process and concept of CCB. For example, neighborhoods may need to learn how to identify problems and develop solutions. Also, all key stakeholders would benefit from training to foster a coordinated and collective approach to CCB.

- **"Package" and disseminate information to the community as a tool for mobilization.** The workgroup strongly expressed the need for criminal justice agencies to collect and disseminate information to communities in a way that is pertinent to them.
- **Assemble a body of knowledge examining community capacity building.** The workgroup requested that the Authority begin to compile a centralized library addressing community capacity building. The library will be used as a foundation for addressing the goals stated by the workgroup, and by the justice community as they carry out CCB. ■

Workgroup participants:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Rick Barkes | Frank Kaminski |
| Diane Bedrosian | Katherine Klimisch |
| Jan Bond | Leslie Landis |
| Jane Buckwalter | William Miller |
| Anthony Chiesa | Cecilia Peeler |
| James Coldren | Dave Sanders |
| Lynda Dautenhahn | Greg Scott |
| Janice DiGirolamo | Irving Spergel |
| Barbara Engel | Jennifer Welch |
| Lee Gregory | Rob Willey |
| Jerry Hughes | Paula Wolff |

Information systems and technology

Steve Prisoc, facilitator

John Evans, Dan Higgins, and Laura Egger, staff

Representatives from nearly all criminal justice fields comprised the Information Systems and Technology Workgroup.

The opening remarks and background information presented to the group outlined some of the initiatives currently underway in Illinois. Among these are enhancements to the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS), criminal history recording, wireless data systems, Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS), and DNA analysis. Another burgeoning area in information technology is the use of the Internet and Internet technologies. In addition, applications such as mapping and Geographic Information Systems, crime analysis and incident-based reporting are utilizing the Internet and related technologies to more effectively analyze data.

The results of the pre-assembly survey identified three critical issues:

- Making data available across the system.
- A lack of technical support.
- The uneven distribution of technical skills and resources throughout the state.

Other issues identified as important were the absence of uniform and coordinated domestic violence data, the lack of availability of arrest and conviction records, and the need for improvements in DNA storage and retrieval.

Subsequent workgroup discussion verified these and other critical issues.

Critical issues

The most critical issue addressed by the workgroup was the current state of integrated information technology. The progress of criminal justice information systems integration in the state was presented to the group. According to information gathered from the SEARCH group, Illinois is in the bottom third of all states in terms of integration. While only four other states currently have fully integrated statewide systems, most other states are in the process of planning or implementing integrated systems.

The lack of an integrated system in Illinois results in criminal justice information being fragmented and frequently inaccurate; information processing is less efficient than it could be, as data is recompiled from disparate systems; information for the courts is not timely; and criminal justice decision-making is much less informed than it is in many other states.

The workgroup thought that lack of data sharing and integration was more of a management problem than a technology problem. Though many counties lack sufficient resources to obtain technology, the more critical issue is the lack of compatibility of the systems already in place. Currently, 114 distinct systems operate in Illinois' 102 counties. This lack of communication between systems necessitates systemwide coordination through the creation of a governance structure.

While facing the development of an integrated system is a daunting challenge, it can allow Illinois the opportunity to harness its own good ideas while learning from other states and counties regarding the costs involved, the most appropriate system for Illinois, and potential pitfalls to avoid.

The results of the pre-assembly survey identified three critical issues:

- Making data available across the system.
- A lack of technical support.
- The uneven distribution of technical skills and resources throughout the state.

Other critical issues addressed include:

- The way the Internet is changing the face of crime and creating new opportunities for crime. As a result, cybercrime is receiving much attention from a number of state agencies. Workgroup members expressed concern that, despite state efforts, Internet crime continues to outpace these efforts and those of less equipped smaller agencies. Cyber-forensics was identified as a rapidly emerging area demanding more training.
- The existence of a “digital divide” in Illinois when it comes to justice technology. Some counties and municipalities are using state-of-the-art computer systems while others are working from paper-driven systems. It was pointed out that some counties don’t have integrated radio systems, let alone integrated information systems.
- Training and technical support for local agencies to combat cyber criminals and to learn new systems.
- Workgroup members called for continued training and more forensic staff throughout the state to provide DNA services to all agencies.

Goals and objectives

The consensus of the workgroup was that the overriding goal should be the creation of an integrated justice information network. To reach that end, numerous preliminary and corollary issues were identified:

- The end users of the integrated justice information system (IJIS) must be included in the design of the system. This is necessary since they will be utilizing the system on a daily basis and will best know what they need to perform their duties.
- A comprehensive needs assessment is required. This might begin with an inventory of the systems currently being used by justice agencies. This data can be used to establish a baseline to determine deficiencies and strengths, and to help determine the method of integrating these disparate systems.
- Executive sponsorship is needed. Without cooperation and a commitment from top-level policy and decision-makers, an IJIS will not succeed.
- Collaboration, communication, and coordination are needed. These are essential for the initial planning, implementation, and ongoing use and enhancement of an IJIS to prevent “reinventing the wheel.”
- Resources are needed. Both financial and technical resources are required at all stages of the process.
- The “digital divide” must be overcome. There are numerous justice agencies throughout the state that have little or no information technology available to them. Their needs must be acknowledged and met for a true, statewide IJIS to be successful.
- Data entered into the system must be accurate and timely. Poor data quality and untimely data will be a detriment to an IJIS.
- Standards must be established to allow data exchange and ensure consistency among agencies.



Dave Roberts of SEARCH (left) delivers a keynote address as Authority Chairman Peter Bensinger looks on.

- A governance structure must be established to ensure all agencies’ interests are represented and to allow for ongoing oversight of the system.

The goals identified by the workgroup took the form of the following vision statement:

Create an integrated statewide justice information network to ensure that all public, private, and individual stakeholders have accurate, timely, and easily accessible information that they need, when and where they need it, to administer justice and enhance the safety and well-being of the people of Illinois.

Other goals were a commitment to strategic planning; budgeting for ongoing upgrades, system support, and maintenance; aggressive pursuit of grant funding; and a commitment to a shared integration vision by all involved parties. ■

Workgroup participants:

Rich Adkins	Mark Maton
David Baer	Karen McKenna
Diana Clegg	Michael Mowen
Brent Crossland	Randall Murphy
Paul Fields	Gerald Nora
Carol Gibbs	Jack Pecoraro
Brian Goggin	John Roe
Terry Gough	Tom Sanders
Susan Johns	Elizabeth Scholz
Teresa Kettelkamp	Jerry Sciaraffa
Jonathon Lewin	John Townsend
Paul Logli	

Participants embrace assembly goals of collaboration and planning

By Cristin Monti

After two days of discussion on several key topics, Criminal Justice Planning Assembly participants agreed that having the opportunity to share their expertise and listen to the experiences of others set the right tone for an effective, long-range plan.

“The experience was helpful, affirming, and inspiring,” said Polly Poskin, Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault director, and member of the Victims of Violent Crime Workgroup. “I appreciated the opportunity to reflect on what we’re doing in victim services and the fact that the Authority wanted our opinion about how they could better help us.”

The event joined representatives from law enforcement, the courts, probation departments, community and social service organizations, and government agencies across Illinois. Participants said the assembly members’ varied backgrounds were an asset to each workgroup.

“It was interesting to see all the various agencies and departments come together with a lot of common goals and concerns,” said Jo Daviess County Sheriff Steve Allendorf, a Drug and Violent Crime Workgroup member. “As a result of the assembly and collaboration, we were able to identify some of the most important areas that funding and emphasis should be focused on in the future.”

The variety of criminal justice perspectives seemed to give the group a better understanding of the work of others in the community as they work to achieve similar goals. Participants said maintaining a spirit of collaboration and open lines of communication are keys to success as future planning takes shape.

“There continues to be a need to learn from each other a little more about how services we provide are similar and how they are different,” Poskin said, adding that further collaboration and group planning could prevent overlapping services.

“Coordination of programs between agencies is one of our biggest challenges at this point,” agreed Randall Murphy, a Lake

County government representative and member of the Information Systems and Technology Workgroup. “Currently there is no support or legislation that enables interagency leadership. I also appreciated that the assembly brought state and local participation to the table.”

Many attendees spoke positively about having a forum to discuss issues they face every day. Prior to the assembly, each participant was provided with a workbook compiled by the Authority, including research summaries that were used as a basis

for group discussions. Several group members said the information they received, as well as a setting devoted entirely to issues facing the criminal justice community, helped significantly in the collaborative effort.

“It was great to have all that material in one place and to have two days to think about it outside of an office context,” said Leslie Landis, director of the Mayor’s Office on Domestic Violence and a

Community Capacity Building Workgroup member.

Allendorf and Landis spoke of concern about the long-term effect of planning decisions made today. Landis said it would be beneficial to examine the way policies created in the past have had an impact on long-term solutions. “There have been unintended consequences of prior policies and I think it’s important to consider the long-term impacts of our decisions,” Landis said.

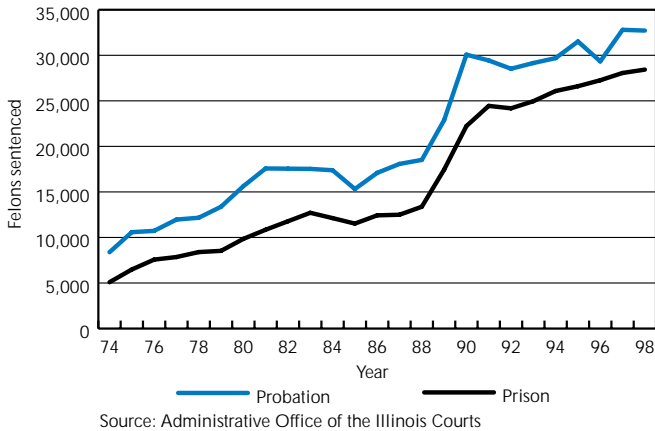
Authority Chairman Peter Bensinger said the hard work completed at the assembly provided a solid foundation for a plan that addresses key issues in the criminal justice community.

“Participation in the individual workgroups was excellent, and a lot was accomplished by bringing together such a wide diversity of expertise,” Bensinger said. ■

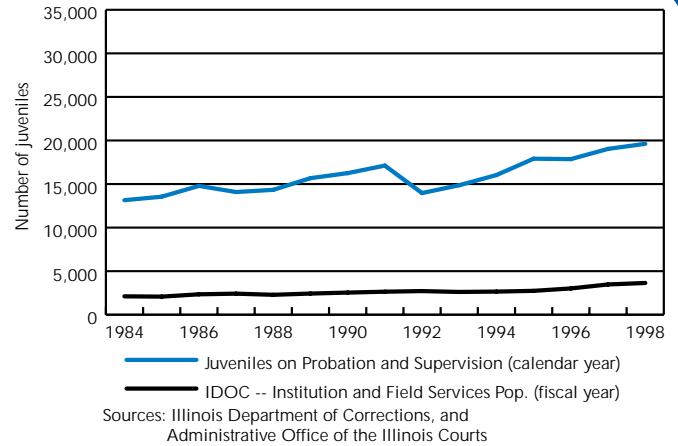
“As a result of the assembly and collaboration, we were able to identify some of the most important areas that funding and emphasis should be focused on in the future.”

— Steve Allendorf, Jo Daviess County Sheriff

Adult felony sentences in Illinois



Juveniles under supervision/custody of the Illinois juvenile justice system



More than 63,800 convicted adult felons were sentenced in Illinois in 1998, more than twice the number sentenced a decade earlier.

There were 2,199 juveniles in Illinois Department of Corrections institutions at the end of fiscal year 1999; an additional 1,603 were supervised under field services. There were 19,615 juveniles on probation or supervision by the end of 1998.

Job opportunities at the Authority

For information on employment opportunities at the Authority, please visit our Web site or contact Jan Oncken, Office of Human Resources, 312-793-8550.

Web updates by e-mail

Automatic updates of information recently added to the Authority Web site are now available by e-mail. To sign up to receive this free service, please visit our Web site.

www.icjia.state.il.us

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