

THE Compiler

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Winter 2003



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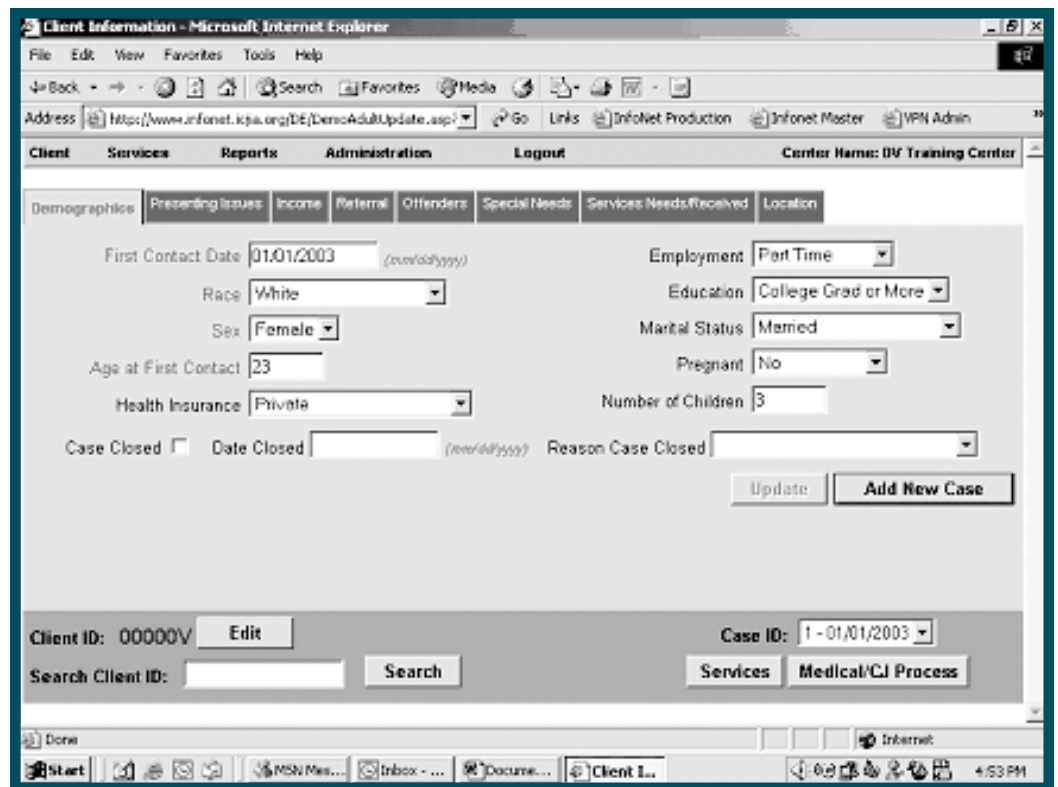
Web-based technology paves the way to better services for victims of crime

By Daniel Dighton and Karen Griffiths

Millions of dollars are designated for victim services each year in Illinois, but until recently it's been hard to accurately measure the benefit of those funds on clients and programs. Limitations in the collection and analysis of data made it difficult to track trends in victimization and direct resources to where they were most needed.

Over the past six years, however, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority has been working with victim service providers to develop a web-based data collection system that is revolutionizing the way victim services information is gathered and utilized. The system allows agencies to confidentially gather case-level information on clients, including the victim's circumstances, services provided, and details of court proceedings.

InfoNet, as the system is known, has received national recognition from the U.S. Department of Justice as a model data collection system. The main impetus for the system was a desire by the



A sample InfoNet data entry screen shows how information is recorded.

Authority to have a better picture of emerging trends and needs so that it could make the most effective use of available resources for victims of crime.

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

The Authority is governed by a 20-member board comprised of state and local leaders from the criminal justice system and members of the public. Currently, there are three vacancies on the board.

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During the last state fiscal year, the Authority disbursed more than \$10 million in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds. A substantial part of that went to domestic violence and rape crisis centers, primarily through two statewide coalitions, the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Those coalitions, with their member agencies across the state, have been the major partners in the development of InfoNet.

"I initially saw InfoNet as a way of capturing basic demographic information about clients and the services they were provided," said Authority Executive Director Candice M. Kane.

"The scope grew almost immediately when we brought users to the table. They immediately saw the multiple benefits they could reap from a system that provided an array of information to them," Kane said.

Nearly five years of InfoNet data are now available from 51 domestic violence and 31 rape crisis agencies operating from more than 120 sites in Illinois. The Authority and the Illinois Department of Human Services are working together to make InfoNet available to approximately 20 additional domestic violence programs that are not members of ICADV. The Authority also is collaborating with the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois to identify data collection and reporting requirements for 35 advocacy centers in Illinois.

"We have multiple uses for it (InfoNet) besides collecting numbers on clients," said Cheryl Howard, director of the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence. "It's given us a better way to look at trends."

One such trend involved the emotionally troubled children of abused

mothers. The coalition had identified a number of children with problems ranging from alcohol and drug abuse to suicidal tendencies. The coalition was able to get additional VOCA money to provide enhanced services to help these children better cope with the violence in their lives.

InfoNet allows users to record information about the emotional well-being of children during their first visit to the agency and when the children have their last visit. In between, the agency can record the services that were provided. This data can then be analyzed to determine if the programs were effective.

"We were looking at some pretty seriously disturbed kids," Howard said. "Down the road we will be able to see if those specialized services are having an impact."

Of course, all children are not affected in the same way by violence in the home. InfoNet will help agencies study the impact of violence under different circumstances, such as the affect on children in different age groups and the affect of varying levels of violence. InfoNet will help identify those children who need more attention and help get them specialized services. It also will help in evaluating what services work for what types of people, Howard said.

A group project

InfoNet was developed under the guidance of an advisory committee made up of users from the coalitions and representatives from funding agencies. The advisory committee met frequently to identify standard data elements to be collected, develop definitions for common terms, and reach agreement on uniform reporting requirements. The

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group also addressed issues of client confidentiality and data ownership.

VOCA funds were used to purchase computers for victim service providers and to support costs for developing a standardized data collection and reporting tool. Local service agencies began data entry in 1997. Meanwhile, the Authority began working with advanced technologies that could migrate the local databases of more than 120 service agency sites into a centralized system.

In February 2001, the Authority released the Web version of InfoNet, which is a centralized application maintained at the Authority. Information is transmitted between remote users of the system and the central database via a private network that utilizes data encryption to securely transfer information over the Internet.

The information entered in InfoNet includes demographic and service information, as well as information about victims and offenders in the criminal justice system. Service agencies collect case-level information, including the victim's circumstances, court proceedings, and services provided. All of the information recorded by the service providers is kept confidential using a unique numerical identifier for each victim.

Everyone involved was deeply concerned about the privacy and safety of the clients, so security was a paramount concern in the development of InfoNet. The Authority chose the same system that is used by the FBI for secure information transmission over the Internet. This virtual private network creates a "virtual" tunnel over the Internet through which highly encrypted data travels to and from users' desktop computers. It also provides secure location-based authentication to keep unregistered users out of the system.

Information is added to the client's record over time, creating a history of

service and events. Client information includes demographic, health insurance, employment, education, marital status, income source, referral source, and special needs. The type of victimization, or presenting issue, is also captured, as well as the victim's interaction with health care systems. Agencies also enter information about the offender's involvement with the criminal justice system, including arrest, charge, case disposition, and sentencing information. In addition, agencies enter all services provided by staff, including direct client services, hotline

contacts, and outreach efforts, such as training, education, and system advocacy. Finally, administrative information is entered into InfoNet to facilitate grant-specific reporting.

"Program directors have come to rely on InfoNet to manage their programs," Kane said. The two coalitions, ICASA and ICADV, use it for program monitoring and planning new initiatives, she said, adding that the system has already provided data that the Authority can use to identify trends in victim needs and monitor responses to those needs. The information can also be compared to data available from other sources

"Over time we'll have an even more clear picture of the people served, the services provided, gaps in service, and practices which might inhibit rather than facilitate victim healing," Kane said.

Theresa Benham, prevention director at A Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Service, or ADV & SAS, which serves LaSalle and Livingston counties, has used InfoNet extensively to gauge the effectiveness of programs and initiatives implemented by her agency.

While her agency's domestic violence data was automated before InfoNet, the format did not lend itself to easy analysis, and the sexual assault data was

"Over time we'll have an even more clear picture of the people served, the services provided, gaps in service, and practices which might inhibit rather than facilitate victim healing."

— Authority Executive Director Candice M. Kane

Publications

A Comparison of Local and Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Enforcement Efforts in Illinois

Through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, researchers from the Authority and Loyola University Chicago's Criminal Justice Department developed and tested a methodology for comparing multi-jurisdictional drug unit efforts to those of local police departments.

These units were formed in the early 1970s to fill the void in drug enforcement efforts between local police departments and federal agencies. They have grown dramatically in number and coverage area since the mid-1980s with federal funds administered by the Authority. Today, there are 21 multi-jurisdictional drug task forces and enforcement groups operating in Illinois.

Findings from the study affirm that multi-jurisdictional drug units target more serious drug law violators than local departments, including those committing felony-level sale and delivery offenses involving controlled substances. The research also revealed that the cases presented for prosecution by these units are slightly more likely to result in conviction. The full research report and an *On Good Authority* summary are currently available.

Extended Jurisdiction Juvenile Prosecutions in Illinois

The Juvenile Justice Reform Provisions of 1998 were enacted to address concerns over the increasing number of serious juvenile offenders in Illinois. The reform provisions added a component to the Illinois Juvenile Court Act that targets violent and habitual juvenile offenders. Authority staff completed an implementation evaluation of these reform provisions and an *On Good Authority* summarizes results from the evaluation pertaining to extended jurisdiction juvenile (EJJ) prosecutions.

State's attorneys may petition the court for EJJ prosecution if there is probable cause to believe that a minor at least 13 years old has committed an offense that would be considered a felony if committed by an adult. Minors who are found guilty in EJJ prosecutions receive both a juvenile

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Research

Illinois Substance Abuse Monitoring Network

R&A staff members are continuing their collaboration with the Department of Human Services' Office on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse through the Illinois Substance Abuse Monitoring Network. This group functions as a special workgroup to facilitate the exchange and analysis of information regarding the nature and extent of drug use, drug abuse, and drug markets in Illinois. The inaugural meeting of the group was held at the Authority's offices on Dec. 16, 2002, and was well received. Representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice, National Drug Intelligence Center presented an overview of drug issues facing the region. The group will hold future meetings to discuss specific aspects of the drug problem in Illinois.

Statewide Crime Victimization Survey

Growing out of recommendations in the *State Criminal Justice Plan*, staff researchers have initiated 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. This past quarter, staff obtained a survey sample from the Illinois Secretary of State's Office. The survey was launched in January 2003 with a mailing to more than 6,500 Illinois residents. Data collection will continue until the end of June and a report on findings regarding general trends in victimization is scheduled for this fall.

Program Evaluation and Research Projects

R&A staff members have begun planning two new evaluation projects scheduled to begin in April. A federal Anti-Drug Abuse Act (ADAA) grant was awarded to the Center for the Study of Crime, Delinquency and Corrections at Southern Illinois University Carbondale to complete an evaluation of the Jackson County School-Based Probation Program. An ADAA grant was awarded to the Department of Public Administration and Policy Analysis at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville for the evaluation of the Moral Reconciliation Therapy in the Franklin/Jefferson County Evening Reporting Center Program. Both evaluations will focus on the imple-

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completely tallied by hand. "One of the advantages since we got (InfoNet) is we have our data in a more accessible format," Benham said.

Using InfoNet, the agency was able to assess the impact of domestic violence protocols introduced in 1998 for police and state's attorney's offices. What they found was a 25 percent decrease in domestic violence-related police charges and more women accessing the agencies services, Benham said.

The numbers seemed to show a strong link between police being trained in the protocols and a willingness among victims to seek help earlier. This was in turn reducing the level of physical violence, as reflected by the decline in arrests and charges. "So we can see that the reason the drop is occurring appears to be because of earlier intervention and prevention efforts," Benham said.

In another analysis of InfoNet data, the agency looked at high school students receiving counseling and determined that access to services was a big factor in students seeking help. A full-time counselor employed by ADV & SAS worked at four high schools in the area served by the agency. Police reports for offenses or complaints were about the same for all of the high schools in the two counties. But at the four schools where the counselor worked significantly more students utilized the counseling services and were more likely to follow through with services, Benham said.

"We are a rural area. Transportation is a huge barrier, and we were able to show that having a counselor on site did make a difference," Benham said.

Benham and Howard said they are anxious to utilize more InfoNet data for tracking criminal justice information pertaining to their clients to identify trends. As more data is collected and analyzed, Howard said, the service agencies will be able to do comparison reports and look at which cases resulted in arrests, prosecutions, and

convictions. This type of information could help them work with police and prosecutors in a number of ways, such as determining if more victim advocacy is needed in certain geographic areas, or if certain categories of people are being left out of the criminal justice process.

Ease of use is one of the key features of the system's software. Data entry and report screens are designed to display and accept information quickly.

"If you have the anecdotal cases, and then you combine that with the quantitative information, it's harder for (criminal justice officials) to say that there's not a problem," Howard said.

Howard said InfoNet also has been particularly helpful for agencies that have satellite offices by enabling them to more closely monitor the work of employees and the services that are being provided. "They don't have the immediate ability to know what that person is doing on the job, which the data from the InfoNet provides them with," she said.

User-friendly system

A standardized data collection system for victim service providers did not exist in Illinois prior to InfoNet. Past data collection efforts were based on requirements of individual funders. Consequently, methods for collecting and reporting data were inconsistent and inefficient. Funding agencies and service providers often struggled with incomplete data that was difficult to access and interpret.

Even for programs that were fortunate enough to have an automated system, very little analysis of data was undertaken on a regular basis. InfoNet is changing this.

"I wanted from InfoNet what I want from all our systems," said Kane. "A system that is user friendly that yields information folks can draw on to do a better job. In other words, the data that's captured should inform decision-making and planning at the program level and statewide."

Ease of use is one of the key features of the system's software. Data entry

screens are designed to display and accept information quickly. The screens include checkboxes and drop-down menus with a predetermined set of responses.

Each client is entered into the system one time and the client's record is updated by subsequent contacts, which has eliminated a lot of redundant data entry. Previously, new intake information was re-entered for a client at the beginning of each fiscal year.

InfoNet also includes a comprehensive set of reporting tools that facilitate data mining and analysis. These tools include standard reports that meet state and federal reporting requirements, as well as management reports that assist case tracking and staff management.

Tireless effort

Getting InfoNet to this point was not a simple process. It took years of tweaking to fine-tune the system to meet the needs of the different users, and countless hours of training for social service workers who were more familiar with counseling a client than coaxing a computer.

"It was kind of a road of hard knocks for a number of years," said Howard. "Part of it was that we have a lot of people working in the domestic violence field who are not computer people."

The initiative to develop InfoNet began in 1996, when a temporary but significant spike in federal funding nearly doubled the amount of VOCA dollars available to states. Also that year, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funds became available for the first time. The Authority decided to use some of those additional funds to begin developing the most comprehensive statewide data collection system for victim services in the country. By the following year, a prototype had been developed and presented to the coalitions.

It quickly became apparent, however, that one size wasn't going to fit all. Because of the differences in clients, services provided, and terminology, the coalitions required different data entry screens and options. These requirements were worked out through extensive user-group meetings and con-

sultations. Authority staff and outside computer consultants then worked out the kinks.

Victim service agencies and their funders had to agree on the most important elements and definitions to be included in InfoNet. The funders also had to agree on a standard set of reports.

Confidentiality was an issue. Victim's safety depends on confidentiality of services. The system had to be secure, and no identifying information, such as name, address, social security number or birth date, could be entered into InfoNet, which instead uses the unique numeric identifier that only the local service provider can match with the actual client.

Ownership of the data also had to be determined. An agreement between the users and the Authority was created that outlines rights of access and use of data. Each agency has exclusive rights and access to the data, while the coalitions and the Authority have permission to access data as it pertains to grants. Additional analysis of the data requires written permission of the local agency.

The InfoNet project has gained national recognition for deploying the latest technologies to enhance data collection and reporting efforts, while creating a unique set of victim service data which is not available anywhere else in the country. The Authority continues to work with service providers, the state coalitions, and other funders to maintain this state-of-the-art system and to utilize the data supplied by many different agencies to allow those agencies to inform and improve the response to victims of crime in Illinois. ■

(Daniel Dighton is a public information officer with the Authority. Karen Griffiths is the Authority's project manager for InfoNet.)



Research continued

mentation and development of the juvenile probation projects, as well as preliminary impact assessments. Final reports are expected in fall 2004.

Community Mobilization: Best Practices and Lessons Learned

Staff members have been involved in preparing a series of four research briefs on different aspects of the Attorney General's Gang Crime Prevention Center (GCPC) Community Mobilization Program. Developed by the GCPC, the first two research brief topics include findings on resident decision-making versus representativeness and community mobilization models. The first brief will address the inherent tension that exists within neighborhoods, as well as make suggestions on how to avoid or minimize this effect of community mobilization. The second brief will describe several approaches to mobilization, along with their strengths and weaknesses, and will include information on how mobilizers responded to the varying amount of available resources. The next two briefs will address integration into the surrounding community and resident engagement/coalition building.

Circuit Court of Cook County, Domestic Violence Intervention Program

A study of the Circuit Court of Cook County Domestic Violence Intervention Program is scheduled to begin this spring. The ADA-funded study will be conducted by the University of Illinois at Chicago and the West Side Domestic Abuse Project (WSDAP) in collaboration with the Social Services Department of the Circuit Court of Cook County. In 1999, UIC and WSDAP developed an assessment tool for batterers designed to increase the safety of victims and to improve the ability of staff to identify men who are at high risk of being batterers. The assessment tool would then be used to intervene using assertive case management to reduce the potential for battering. This project will use existing Cook County PROMIS data and supplemental data collected from case records on men participating in the Domestic Violence Intervention Program. Researchers will be able to collect longitudinal data on predictors of attrition and outcomes for men who batter that can be used by policymakers and staff to improve intervention services.

Grants

Local Law Enforcement Block Grants

The Authority received 477 proposals for federal fiscal year 2002 Local Law Enforcement Block Grants (LLEBG) program funding. The U. S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, made \$984,700 available for this program in Illinois, \$955,159 of which can be distributed through the competitive process. Awards will be made to municipal law enforcement agencies and county sheriffs' departments for individual equipment grants in amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000. Seventy-five percent of the funds will be available for units of local government with populations less than 25,000. LLEBG funding may be used for purposes of reducing crime and improving public safety.

Victims of Crime Act

The Authority received 20 funding proposals for law enforcement and prosecution-based victims services programs under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). A maximum of \$1.65 million in FFY02 VOCA funding is available for initiatives in this area. Funding will go toward the creation or expansion of direct services for victims of crime provided by law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices. Fundable services are limited to activities related to assisting crime victims in addressing issues and overcoming obstacles that arise from their victimization.

Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council strategic plan

The Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council is updating its statewide funding strategy. The Council annually adopts a strategy derived from public hearings, written input, and data analyses. The strategy describes the nature and extent of the motor vehicle theft problem in Illinois, the areas of the state where the problem is most severe, issues on which the Council should focus, and programs the Council should support. The Council then makes grant awards to implement programs that are consistent with the statewide strategy.

Victims of Crime Week, April 6-12

Authority, federal Office for Victims of Crime mark 20 years

Crime victims, service providers, criminal and juvenile justice professionals, and community volunteers will join together April 6-12 to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

The year also marks the 20th anniversary of both the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Since 1983, the Authority has been involved in a number of victim service initiatives, on its own, in collaboration with OVC, and in partnership with other agencies. Below are some of the highlights of those efforts over the past 20 years.

1983 — The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is created to improve the administration of criminal justice.

OVC is created by the U.S. Department of Justice within the Office of Justice Programs. It establishes a national resource center, trains professionals, and develops model legislation to protect victims' rights.

1984 — Passage of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) establishes the Crime Victims Fund, made up of federal criminal fines, penalties, and bond forfeitures, to support state victim compensation and local victim service programs.

The Illinois Bill of Rights for Victims and Witnesses of Violent crime takes effect. The law is the first of its kind in the state to ensure fair and compassionate treatment of crime victims.

The Criminal Sexual Assault Act is passed in Illinois, making sexual assault gender neutral and expanding the crime to include other types of assault besides rape.

1985 — The Authority's Office of Federal Assistance Programs is created to administer the newly formed federal Justice Assistance Act and the victim assistance portion of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).

1986 — OVC awards the first grants to support state victim compensation and assistance programs.

Two years after its passage, VOCA is amended by the Children's Justice Act to provide funds specifically for the investigation and prosecution of child abuse.

The Illinois Domestic Violence Act is enacted, recognizing domestic violence as a serious crime, clarifying the responsibilities of law enforcement officers to provide immediate and effective assistance and protection for victims, and expanding the civil and criminal remedies for victims.

1988 — *State v. Ciskie* is the first case to allow the use of expert testimony to explain the behavior and mental state of an adult rape victim. The testimony is used to show why a victim of repeated physical and sexual abuse by her intimate partner would not immediately report it to authorities. The jury convicts the defendant on four counts of rape.

1990 — The Victims of Child Abuse Act is passed, featuring reforms to make the federal criminal justice system less traumatic for child victims and witnesses.

1991 — The 1991 Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance are issued to implement new protection of the Crime Control Act of 1990, integrating the requirements of the Federal Crime Victims' Bill of Rights, the Victims of Child Abuse Act and the Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982.

1992 — Voters approve amendment to the Illinois Constitution guaranteeing certain rights to crime victims.

1996 — The Federal Crime Victims Fund reaches an historic high with deposits totaling more than \$525 million.

The Office for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, issues the Juvenile Justice Action Plan that includes recommendations for victims' rights and services for victims of juvenile offenders within the juvenile justice system.

2003 — The Authority celebrates its 20th year of improving the administration of criminal justice and supporting programs that serve victims of crime. The year also marks the Office of Victims of Crime's 20th year of national leadership on victims' issues. ■

(Sources: "National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide" from the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.)

Bensinger steps down after more than a decade as Authority chairman

After more than 11 years at the helm as chairman of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, Peter B. Bensinger stepped down from the post when his latest term expired in January. Mr. Bensinger, a former administrator of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and past director of the Illinois Department of Corrections, was appointed chairman of the Authority by Gov. Jim Edgar in June 1991.

One of Mr. Bensinger's earliest actions as chairman of the Authority was to urge the development of a program to prevent the use of illegal drugs. The result was the "Consider the Consequences" advertising and awareness campaign, which sought to educate young people about the severe legal consequences of drug convictions.

Mr. Bensinger was an early champion of community policing and provided important support to fledgling community policing efforts in Joliet and Chicago. He also was a strong advocate for victims, and supported initiatives expanding services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

While serving as chairman of the Authority, Mr. Bensinger also shared his knowledge and vision as a member or chairman of numerous other committees, including the Governor's Task Force on Crime and Corrections, the Legislative Committee on Juvenile Justice, the Truth-in-Sentencing Commission, the Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition, the Governor's Commission on Capital Punishment, and the Criminal Code Re-Write Commission.

Throughout his tenure as chairman, Mr. Bensinger showed he understood

that police, prosecutors, defenders, judges, probation officers, and correctional personnel were the backbone of the criminal justice system, and that those different components must be balanced and regarded as parts of a whole system.

At his final Authority meeting as chairman in December, fellow Authority members praised Mr. Bensinger for his professionalism, integrity, and diplomacy. Dorothy Brown, clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, told the chairman: "I would like to just compliment you on the professionalism that you have demonstrated in chairing these meetings during the two years that I have been sitting on this Authority board, the means in which you handled each board member...the sensitivity that you've shown to many of the issues that I have brought before this board. And I just want to go on record thanking you for all of your hard work for the citizens of Illinois."

Numerous members echoed her words, including Cook County State's Attorney Dick Devine. "We go back a long way," Devine told the chairman. "We have served on many boards for many years, and as all the people on this board know, and as Ms. Dorothy Brown and others have said, whenever you under-

(Continued on page back page)



After his final meeting as chairman of the Authority, Peter Bensinger shares a moment with Barbara McDonald (left), of the Chicago Police Department, and Authority member Barbara Engel.

Technology

Illinois Integrated Justice Information Systems efforts

The Illinois Integrated Justice Information Systems (IJIS) board has approved the IJIS Strategic Plan, which includes an executive summary and mission, vision, and values statements. IJIS Project staff recently sent out surveys targeting police departments, sheriffs' offices, probation departments, state's attorneys' offices, and circuit clerks' offices to gain a more in-depth understanding of information management and sharing practices across the criminal justice community.

The Authority is considering several proposals it received for professional services to assist in the planning, analysis, development, and implementation of justice information systems integration projects.

ALERTS news

The Authority implemented a Motorola DataTac 2.0 platform in Henry County, providing additional functionality to the county's Area-wide Law Enforcement Radio Terminal System (ALERTS) network, including wireless image transmission. The system also will improve the throughput of the network while allowing for increased capacity. Seven counties are now using the DataTac 2.0 platform with their ALERTS networks. The Authority has been working to phase out aging ALERTS network infrastructure, some of which is more than 12 years old.

The Authority also recently convened a users group to promote the capacity for public safety agencies to exchange data with one another via wireless communications systems. The Illinois Wireless Data Interoperability Group had their second meeting March 12 in Bloomington. Representatives of the state's 19 public safety mobile data networks, which includes ALERTS, were invited.

PIMSNet update

A vendor from Salt Lake City, Utah, was selected to oversee the Police Information Management System's (PIMS) transition to PIMSNet. PIMSNet is a Microsoft SQL Server-based records management system that is compliant with Uniform Crime Reports and the National Incident-Based Reporting System. PIMSNet will be implemented in all PIMS agencies by the end of state fiscal year 2004.

Bensinger,

Continued from page 7

take a job for the public such as you have here, you do it with the same commitment, integrity, and class as you have done this job. And I know on behalf of everybody here, we thank you for that.”

Mr. Bensinger is president of Bensinger, DuPont & Associates, a Chicago-based consulting firm that assists private industry, organizations, and government agencies with drug and alcohol policies.

Mr. Bensinger was appointed administrator of the DEA in 1976, and served as head of that agency during the Ford, Carter, and Reagan Administrations. Prior to that assignment he served as director of the Illinois Department of Corrections. Additional posts he has held include chairman of the Illinois Youth Commission, chief of the Crime Victims Division of the Illinois Attorney General's Office, and executive director of the Chicago Crime Commission. ■

(Publications, continued from p. 3)

sentence and an adult sentence. The adult sentence is stayed and not imposed unless the offender violates the conditions of the juvenile sentence. EJJ prosecutions are intended to provide minors who have committed serious offenses with a last chance to avoid adult sanctions. At the same time, the potential of an adult sentence is intended to serve as a deterrent to future criminal activity. A full report on the evaluation of the implementation of the act is also available.

Police Use of Formal and Informal Station Adjustments for Juveniles in Illinois

An *On Good Authority* summarizing the use of formal and informal station adjustments in Illinois is currently available. The Juvenile Justice Reform Provisions of 1998 made changes to Illinois station adjustment laws that require juvenile police officers to distinguish between two types of station adjustments: formal and informal.

Juvenile police officers in Illinois have the authority to resolve juvenile cases by issuing station adjustments. Station adjustments allow officers to inter-

vene and redirect delinquent minors, while still ensuring that minors are held accountable for their actions. When juvenile police officers issue a station adjustment, they arrest the minor, handle the case at the police station, and then release the minor without referring the case to court. In addition to the *On Good Authority* summary, a full report on the evaluation of the implementation of the act is also available.

Methamphetamine in Illinois: An Examination of an Emerging Drug

A *Research Bulletin* was developed by Authority staff to demonstrate how key indicators can be used to measure, monitor, and evaluate the extent and nature of methamphetamine use and abuse in Illinois. Using aggregate data at the local and national level, the research sought to gauge the migratory characteristics of methamphetamine as an emerging drug by examining prevalence indicators, such as drug arrests, lab seizures, and quantity of drugs seized, relative to consequence indicators, such as admissions to treatment for methamphetamine abuse and other health data.

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