

JRSA Electronic News

A monthly briefing for members

April/May 2011

JRSA News

JRSA Work Featured in New Book on DMC

A recently released book on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) includes a chapter written by JRSA staff Mary Poulin, Stan Orchowsky, and Janice Iwama. "Assessing DMC Initiatives: A Case Study of Two States" details work that JRSA did with Iowa and Virginia under an Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)-funded project completed in 2010 to examine strategies to reduce DMC in the juvenile justice system. The chapter documents the implementation, and when possible the impact, of strategies, and offers recommendations to help OJJDP and the states with DMC efforts. The new book, *Disproportionate Minority Contact: Current Issues and Policies*, is available at <http://www.cap-press.com/books/isbn/9781594608889/Disproportionate+Minority+Contact>.

National News

Obama Administration Revises Juvenile Justice Funding Proposal

Drawing on feedback from states, the juvenile justice community, and congressional offices, the Obama Administration has developed an alternative to its original \$120 million Race to the Top-style incentive grants program proposed in the fiscal year 2012 budget. The new proposal would preserve the Part B Formula Grants program, continue the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program, and create a new discretionary funding program to encourage innovation and evidence-based reforms in the juvenile justice system. For more information, go to <http://www.ojjdp.gov/enews/11juvjust/110401.html>.

Publications

BJS Releases New Publications

Dialogue Between the Bureau of Justice Statistics and Key Criminal Justice Data Users describes the multidisciplinary workshop convened in 2008 by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. It includes the professional papers presented at the workshop and a complete transcript of the discussion sessions held afterwards. The publication is available at <http://www.bjs.gov/content/duw.cfm>.

Jail Inmates at Midyear 2010 - Statistical Tables presents data on the number of jails and analyzes patterns of growth and decline in jail populations. These statistical tables include data on rated capacity of jails, percent of capacity occupied, and capacity added; provide estimates of admissions to jails; and detail the volume of movement among the jail population. This web document also includes total numbers for jail inmates by sex, race, and Hispanic origin. The tables can be found at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2375>.

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, 2010 describes the steps used in the Justice Assistance Grant formula calculation process and presents summary results of the FY 2010 formula calculations. It is available at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2412>.

Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents, 2008-2010 describes the characteristics of human trafficking investigations, suspects, and victims in cases opened by federally funded task forces between January 2008 and June 2010. The report is online at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=40>.

Pew Study Looks at State-by-State Recidivism Rates

A new report from The Pew Center on the States examines efforts by states to combat rising recidivism rates. *State of Recidivism-The Revolving Door of America's Prisons*, the first national survey to provide state-by-state data on recidivism, updates the last Bureau of Justice Statistics national study of recidivism rates. According to the report, 45.4 percent of people released from prison in 1999 and 43.3 percent of those released from prison in 2004 were imprisoned again within three years of release. Reincarceration within those three years was due to the commission of a new crime or violation of parole or probation conditions after release. While the numbers are not very encouraging, the report highlights three states' successful criminal justice policy efforts that significantly reduced recidivism rates. Furthermore, although many states legislators believe in increasing imprisonment spending to combat crime, the report notes that the 19 states that cut their imprisonment also experienced a decline in crime rates. The report is available at http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Pew_State_of_Recidivism.pdf.

Publication Provides Information on How to Help Children Exposed to Violence

The U.S. Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services have jointly released *Evidence-Based Practices for Children Exposed to Violence: A Selection from Federal Databases*, a report that summarizes findings from federal reviews of research studies and program evaluations to help communities improve outcomes for children exposed to violence. This package of information is available at http://www.safestartcenter.org/pdf/Evidence-Based-Practices-Matrix_2011.pdf.

Report Addresses Issues Regarding Reentry Courts

Reentry courts provide close supervision, links to social services, and intensive case management to offenders returning home after incarceration. The Center for Court Innovation released *Reentry Courts: Looking Ahead. A Conversation about Strategies for Offender Reintegration*, which summarizes a discussion on reentry courts among a focus group of policymakers, court practitioners, and parole and probation administrators. The conversation focuses on reentry courts' achievements, future prospects, and challenges. The publication is available at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/CCI_ReentryCourts.pdf.

BJA Newsletter Reports on New Resource for Judges Dealing With Elder Abuse

The April issue of *Justice Today* highlights the problem of elder abuse and discusses a new resource for judges in the article, "Identifying and Responding to Elder Abuse: A Benchcard for Judges." This issue also includes articles on BJA's "Second Tuesdays at 2:00" webinar series, the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) Program, and current funding opportunities. It is available at http://bja.ncjrs.gov/justicetoday/pdf/bjanewsletter_042511.pdf.

NIJ Launches New Digest

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) introduced a new publication, *Research Report Digest*, which presents findings from research funded by the NIJ, including brief descriptions of studies in a variety of criminal justice disciplines and evaluations of technologies used in law enforcement and corrections. The entries include links to the full reports. The *Digest* will keep users informed of all final grant reports and enhances information that is published in the *NIJ Journal* (<http://www.nij.gov/journals/welcome.htm>) and on the NIJ website (<http://www.nij.gov/>). The *Digest* is available at <http://nij.gov/nij/publications/digest/issue1.htm>.

Conferences and Training

OVC Offers Training in Victims Assistance

The Office for Victims of Crime is holding several instructor-led trainings in the next several months, including *Strengthening Military-Civilian Community Partnerships to Respond to Sexual Assault*, May 19-20 in Charlotte, North Carolina; *Supporting Children Living with Grief and Trauma: A Multidisciplinary Approach*, June 14-15, 2011, in Salem, Massachusetts; and *Providing Culturally Competent Services to Victims of Crime*, August 23-25 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Visit the OVC TTAC website at <https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/TrainingMaterials/dspInstructorLedTraining.cfm> to view the full schedule and descriptions of upcoming trainings.

Victims' assistance program leaders who wish to organize a specific training for their region may now take advantage of *Training by Request*. If a particular workshop is not listed on OVC's current *Training Schedule* for your region, you may request it as long as it is included in the OVC TTAC *Trainings Catalog*. For more information, go to

<https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/TrainingMaterials/dspTrainingByRequest.cfm>.

Conference to Focus on Evidence-Based Risk/Needs Assessment in Community Corrections

The International Community Corrections Association (ICCA), in partnership with the National Judicial College, the International Association for Forensic and Correctional Psychology, and the American Probation and Parole Association, will hold a Regional and Topical Conference on *The Roles of Evidence-Based Risk/Needs Assessment* in Reno, Nevada, on July 17-20. This meeting will focus on the diverse applications of validated risk/needs assessment tools at pre-trial, in evidence-based sentencing, treatment planning, case management, and determination of conditions of probation and parole. Among the featured speakers are Dr. James Austin of the JFA Institute, and Scott Bernard Peterson, on the topic of youth and teen courts. For more information, go to http://www.iccaweb.org/renomeeting_2011.htm.

OJJDP Conference to Address Aiding Child Victims

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), in collaboration with the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center and Dallas Police Department, will cosponsor the *Crimes Against Children Conference*, August 8-11 in Dallas, Texas. This conference will provide instruction, information, and strategies to professionals from law enforcement, prosecution, child protective services, social work, advocacy, therapy, and medicine who work directly with child victims of crime, to protect child victims

and prosecute their offenders. Registration is available at <http://www.cacconference.org/dcac/default.aspx>.

Online Resources

Juvenile Law Center Hosts Webinars on Information Sharing Tool Kit

The Juvenile Law Center, with support from the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change initiative, will host a second round of the three-part webinar series on the *Information Sharing Tool Kit*. Part I of the webinar will be held May 4, Part II on May 13, and Part III on May 16. The *Tool Kit* was created to help jurisdictions improve their information and data sharing procedures for youth involved in multiple systems. The webinars, developed in collaboration with the National Center for Juvenile Justice, will introduce three kinds of information and data sharing: for individual case planning and decision making; for law, policy, and program development; and for program evaluation and performance measurement. For more information, go to <http://modelsforchange.net/publications/282>.

Webinar Offered on Engaging the Community in Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention

The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault is hosting a free webinar on *Cultivating Community Driven Social Change: Integrating the Community Voice in Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Efforts* on Tuesday, May 10 at 2:00 Eastern Time. This 90-minute webinar will focus on translating best practices around community engagement into practical applications for the field, and on ensuring community voices are a valuable addition to planning, coalition, and program and policy change efforts. To register, go to <http://www.preventconnect.org/display/displayTextItems.cfm?itemID=329§ionID=248>.

BJA and NCJA Present Webinar on Obtaining Buy-In for Reform

The Bureau of Justice Assistance and National Criminal Justice Association present the next webinar in their evidence-based programs, practices, and trends in criminal justice series on May 19 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. *Making the Case for Change: Perspectives on Obtaining Buy-in for Criminal Justice Reform* will focus on the process of creating change within the criminal justice system and cover strategies for obtaining political, managerial, and front-line employee buy-in from key stake holders at all levels of the criminal justice system from courts to corrections. The two presenters are Adam Gelb, Director of Public Safety Performance Project at the Pew Center on the States, which works with states on the nationally renowned Justice Reinvestment model, and Mike Lawlor, Undersecretary Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division within the Connecticut Office of Policy & Management. To register for this free webinar or view past webinars in the series, go to http://www.ncja.org/NCJA/Education_and_Events/Byrne_JAG_TTA_for_SAAs/Webinar_Series/NCJA/Navigation/EducationEvents/ByrneJAGTTAforSAAs/Webinar_Series.aspx?hkey=957b485e-d3b3-491c-b51f-e3c2efe7edae.

Announcements

NIJ Launches "Director's Corner"

Meet John H. Laub, Director of the National Institute of Justice, at the new *Director's Corner* web page. The web page includes Dr. Laub's vision for the Institute, a video interview on "Embracing a Culture of Science," and recent blog posts. This page, on which you can follow Dr. Laub through his speeches, commentary, and publications, is available at <http://www.nij.gov/nij/about/director/welcome.htm>.

Center for Court Innovation Launches New Web Site

The Center for Court Innovation redesigned its website, which offers podcasts featuring interviews with leading victim advocates, criminologists, police chiefs, and other criminal justice experts; short films that highlight innovative programs from around the United States; blogs that describe the gritty, day-to-day work of launching new criminal justice initiatives; and the latest research by Center authors on such topics as reentry, addiction, juvenile justice, and illegal trafficking. The website URL is <http://www.courtinnovation.org>.