

JRSA Electronic News

A monthly briefing for members

August 29, 2012

JRSA News

JRSA Launches Redesigned Website

JRSA launched its new website last month at www.jrsa.org. Designed and implemented by JRSA staff, the site was reorganized and updated to give it a cleaner, more modern look. The navigation bar was moved to the top of the page, drop-down menus replace the clutter of individual item lists, the JRSA logo was refined, and a slide show of news items was created on the main page to highlight the work of the SACs, JRSA, and OJP agencies. Every section of the site was reviewed and revised, including pages with SAC contact information that are reached through the map on the home page. On the SAC awards page, links to winning publications dating back to 1997 were added. The search function for the *SAC Publication Digest* and *JRP Digest* abstracts was refined to make search results more informative. There is also a new "SAC Login" area, where documents related to SAC and JRSA organizational business were placed for easy reference. We invite feedback on the new website; let us know what you think!

SAC News

Delaware, Montana, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Wyoming Welcome New Directors

Thomas MacLeish, who retired in 2009 from the Delaware State Police (DSP), is serving as interim director of the Delaware SAC. Colonel MacLeish joined the State Police in 1977 and over the years rose steadily through the ranks. In 2005, Governor Ruth Ann Minner appointed him to the position of Superintendent, with the rank of Colonel. As Superintendent, Col. MacLeish led the DSP, overseeing 671 sworn troopers and 255 civilian employees. He is credited with effectively leading the state's largest police agency during a time of constant change and numerous, multifaceted challenges. He holds a B.S. in Management and Supervision from Wilmington University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. In 2006, he graduated from the FBI's National Executive Institute.

Tyson McLean is the new interim SAC Director in Montana. He replaces Jimmy Steyee, who accepted a job with CSR Incorporated in Arlington, Virginia, to do performance measurement work for the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Mr. McLean was hired as Statistician with the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC). He has a master's degree from the University of Montana in criminology, and graduated magna cum laude from Washington State University with a double major in criminal justice and sociology and a minor in political science. He worked as a research assistant for the University of Montana, Department of Sociology, assisting with some of MBCC's risk assessment instrument validation and data analysis relating to disproportionate minority contact. Most recently, he has acted as Assistant Director for University Center's Fraternity and Sorority Involvement at the University of Montana.

When Michael Wilson left the Oregon SAC to become a private consultant, **Kelly Officer** was chosen as SAC contact until a permanent director is hired. Ms. Officer has been a research analyst at the Oregon Justice Research and Statistics Association • 777 North Capitol Street, NE • Suite 801 • Washington, DC 20002

Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) since January 2010. Her research focuses on program evaluation and risk assessment, as well as supportive statistical analysis and data summaries for Oregon's sentencing guidelines grid and grant programs, which the CJC administers. She is currently focusing on an online static risk assessment tool for Oregon called the Public Safety Checklist and a randomized controlled trial of four drug courts in Oregon for property offenders (drug court-eligible charges in Oregon include property charges). Before joining the CJC she was a statistician at a private marketing research firm. Her education includes a master's degree in statistics from Oregon State University and a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Western Oregon University.

Derek Veitenheimer is the Director of the Wisconsin Justice Information Center at the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance. As the director, he is responsible for overseeing the state's Statistical Analysis Center and Justice Information Sharing programs. His prior criminal justice experience includes working in Wisconsin's Uniform Crime Reporting, Traffic Stop Data Collection, and Justice Information Exchange programs. Mr. Veitenheimer has extensive knowledge of Wisconsin's criminal justice data systems, as well as the capabilities in the collection, exchange, research, and analysis of criminal justice information among state and local systems.

Dr. Burke Grandjean has resigned after nine years as the Executive Director of the Wyoming SAC (WYSAC). He is returning to teaching and research at the University of Wyoming, where the SAC is housed. The Interim Director is **Dr. Bistra Anatchkova**, who has been at WYSAC for nine years in the role of manager of the Survey Research Division. We'll have more information about her in the next issue of the E-Newsletter.

Publications

NIJ Releases DNA Initiative Report to Congress

According to a report just released by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), *DNA Initiative Report to Congress FY2011*, approximately 75 percent of every dollar NIJ receives from Congress as part of the DNA Initiative goes directly to crime laboratories and law enforcement. The 399-page annual report includes the full solicitations for proposals, lists of the grantees who were competitively selected to receive awards, the amount of each award, and abstracts for each grantee project. Major activities include DNA backlog reduction, solving cold cases, research and development, training and technical assistance, and dissemination and outreach. Information about the report, as well as a link to the full report, is available at <http://www.nij.gov/topics/forensics/lab-operations/evidence-backlogs/fy11-report-to-congress.htm>.

BJS Reports on Crime Labs in the U.S. and Victimizations Not Reported to Police

At the end of 2009, the nation's publicly funded crime labs had an estimated backlog of 1.2 million requests for forensic services, which was relatively unchanged from the backlog at yearend 2008. This is one of the findings from a new report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Census of Publicly Funded Forensic Crime Laboratories, 2009*, which examines crime lab personnel, budgets, workloads, and other administrative information, including backlogs in requests for forensic services. For a copy of the report, as well as information about the source data, go to <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4412>.

According to *Victimizations Not Reported to the Police, 2006-2010*, from 2006 to 2010, the highest percentages of unreported crime were among household theft (67%) and rape or sexual assault (65%) victimizations, while the lowest percentage was among motor vehicle theft (17%) victimizations. This report presents findings, for a five-year period from 2006 to 2010, on the characteristics of crime victimizations that went unreported to police, according to data from the National Crime Victimization Survey. The report also examines trends from 1994 to 2010 in the types of crime not reported to the police and the reasons victimizations went unreported. For example, from 1994 to 2010, the percentage of serious violent crime—rape or sexual assault, robbery, or aggravated assault—that was not reported to police declined from 50% to 42%. The report and information about the source data are available at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4393>.

Addressing Homelessness in the Criminal Justice System

Reducing Homeless Populations' Involvement in the Criminal Justice System: Resource Guide (NCJ 239213, 21 pp.) is designed by the Office of Justice Programs to generate awareness among law enforcement, courts, prosecutors, defenders, state and local legislators, advocates, social service providers, and the homeless about Department of Justice resources available to serve homeless people, and those at risk of homelessness, who are involved in the criminal justice system. The guide is available at <http://www.justice.gov/atj/doj-resource-guide.pdf>.

New Publication Discusses Juvenile Court Statistics

The National Center for Juvenile Justice released *Juvenile Court Statistics 2009*, which profiles more than 1.5 million delinquency cases and more than 140,000 status offense cases that courts with juvenile jurisdiction processed in 2009. The report also describes trends in delinquency cases that juvenile courts processed between 1985 and 2009 and the status offense cases they handled between 1995 and 2009. It is available at <http://www.ncjj.org/pdf/jcsreports/jcs2009.pdf>.

The annual *Juvenile Court Statistics* report series is one of many products supported by the National Juvenile Court Data Archive. To learn more, visit the Archive Website at <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/njcda/>.

Report Provides Statistics on Child and Family Issues

The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics released *America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2012*, which provides detailed information about the welfare of children and families. Each year since 1997, the Forum has published a report on the well-being of children and families. Pending data availability, the Forum updates all 41 indicators annually on its website and alternates publishing a detailed report with a summary version that highlights selected indicators. The report is available at <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/index.asp>.

SMART Office Provides Guide to Sex Offender Case Law

The statutes, regulations, and laws addressing sex offender registration and notification in the United States are varied and complex. *Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States: Current Case Law and Issues* provides the most current and accurate information about this topic; however, practitioners are advised to conduct their own research to confirm that they are using the latest information available. The guide is available at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/smart/caselaw/handbook_july2012.pdf.

SAMHSA Releases High School Suicide Prevention Toolkit

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration released *Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools*, which provides strategies to help high schools, school districts, and their partners design and implement strategies to prevent suicide and promote behavioral health among their students. The toolkit is available at <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA12-4669/SMA12-4669.pdf>.

Conferences, Training, and Webinars

NCJA and BJA Hold Webinar on Veteran Reentry Programs

The National Criminal Justice Association and Bureau of Justice Assistance are holding a webinar on Thursday, September 6, at 3:00 p.m. ET on Veteran Specific Programs. The webinar will look at both state and local efforts to help veterans reenter society, prevent recidivism, address risk factors, and connect to benefits earned through service. It will focus on efforts taking place within the Indiana Department of Correction's Veterans Education and Transition Program and county-level efforts taking place in Washington State. For more information or to register, go to <http://bit.ly/NUF2zz>.

NIJ to Hold Webinar on Police Officer Safety and Wellness

Last year, 177 police officers lost their lives in the line of duty and 143 committed suicide. On Tuesday, September 18, at 2:00 p.m. EDT, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) will hold a panel session, *Healthy Officers Are Safer Officers: the Nexus between Performance and Health*, to discuss some of the evidence-based practices and policies that law enforcement agencies can adopt and implement to reduce officer deaths and improve wellness and performance. For a list of panelists and to register, go to <http://www.innovations.harvard.edu/xchat-transcript.html?chid=379>.

Global Youth Justice to Host Training Institute

Global Youth Justice will host its annual International Training Institute, "Establish/Enhance/Expand a Local Teen Court/Youth Court Diversion Program," on December 4-6, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The program is designed for those who are interested in establishing or enhancing a local juvenile justice diversion program, often referred to as youth court, teen court, peer court, student court, or youth peer panel. Topics will include training adult and youth volunteers, holding mock family intake meetings, offering quality community service programs, implementing operational and administrative procedures, and more. For more information, go to http://www.globalyouthjustice.org/Training_and_Events.html.