

# JRSA Electronic News

## A monthly briefing for members

January 20, 2012

### National News

#### **AAG Robinson to Depart in February**

Laurie O. Robinson, Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), announced on January 3 that she would be leaving her position at the end of February. AAG Robinson was confirmed by the Senate in November 2009. She previously served for nearly seven years as Assistant Attorney General for OJP during the 1990s, making her the longest-serving head in the agency's 44-year history.

In announcing her departure, Robinson said she and her team had "made substantial progress toward goals" set when she arrived in 2009. One of them, "restoring a respect for science," includes having leading criminologists head the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics and a "what works" clearinghouse, <http://crimesolutions.gov>.

Robinson also cited "restoring strong and credible partnerships" with the criminal justice field, starting initiatives like the National Forum on Youth Violence, Defending Childhood, the Federal Interagency Reentry Council, and the National Revitalization Initiative. Robinson said she had "worked hard to ensure that OJP's grant process is transparent, fair and accessible to our stakeholders, while at the same time ensuring we are good stewards of federal funds." Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Mary Lou Leary will serve as Acting Assistant Attorney General following Robinson's departure.

#### **New Acting Administrator Named for OJJDP**

Earlier this week, Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson announced that Melodee Hanes has been designated as the Acting Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Hanes, who has served as the Acting Deputy Administrator for Policy at OJJDP for the past 2 ½ years, replaces Jeff Slowikowski, who served as Acting Administrator for nearly three years. Slowikowski will become the Acting Deputy Administrator for policy at OJJDP.

Prior to joining OJJDP, Hanes spent 16 years as a deputy county attorney in Des Moines, Iowa, and Billings, Montana, where she prosecuted child abuse, sexual assault, and homicide cases. She has trained child protection investigators and served as an adjunct professor of law at Drake University, where she taught child abuse law, forensic medicine, and forensic law. Hanes is a graduate of Drake University School of Law.

## SAC News

### **Massachusetts SAC Has New Director**

**Lisa Lorant Sampson** is the new Director of the Massachusetts Statistical Analysis Center. This is one of her key roles as Director of the Research and Policy Analysis Division for the Office of Grants and Research, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. Formerly the Deputy Director of Research and Planning at the Massachusetts Department of Correction, Ms. Sampson has authored numerous publications on the Massachusetts correctional population. In her new role she plans to increase the utilization of criminal justice data from across the Commonwealth to inform and guide policy, enhance data sharing and networking, and develop and strengthen research partnerships. She received her Master of Social Work degree from Boston University. Special recognition to **Alexander Wagner** for his many contributions while at the SAC. He recently moved on to a new position as Director of Institutional Research at Fisher College.

## Publications

### **JRSA Guide Provides Guidance to Practitioners on Good Quality Evaluation Reports**

While it is common knowledge that evaluations are crucial for determining the effectiveness of a program, how do you know if you have a high-quality evaluation? The BJA Center for Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement, a project of JRSA, just released *Is This a Good Quality Outcome Evaluation Report? A Guide for Practitioners*. It is designed to introduce and explain key concepts in outcome evaluation research to help practitioners and policy makers distinguish between good and poor quality evaluation reports. This guide provides the reader with information on types of evaluations, sample size, data presentation, definition of terms, and a checklist to use in assessing the quality of a report. The guide is available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/evaluation/index.html#report>.

### **Report Details State Prosecutors' Caseloads and Convictions**

In 2007, almost half (47%) of prosecutors' offices had received a written threat, a threatening phone call, a face-to-face threat, or had staff who were victims of battery or assault according to the recently released Bureau of Justice Statistics report, *Prosecutors in State Courts, 2007 - Statistical Tables*. Part of the *Prosecutors in State Courts* series, this report presents findings on felony caseloads and convictions in the 2,330 chief prosecutors' offices in the United States that handled felony cases in state courts of general jurisdiction. Data are from the *2007 National Census of State Court Prosecutors*. The report is available at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=1749>.

### **BJS Reports Detail Prison Statistics and Persons Sentenced to Death**

BJS also released *Prisoners in 2010*, which presents data on prisoners who were under the jurisdiction of federal and state correctional authorities on December 31, 2010, collected from the *National Prisoner Statistics* series. Data compare changes in the prison population during 2010 to changes from yearend 2000 through yearend 2009, exploring factors leading to a decline in the state prison population. *Prisoners in 2010* is available at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2230>.

*Capital Punishment, 2010 - Statistical Tables* is also part of the *National Prisoner Statistics* series and presents characteristics of persons who were under sentence of death on December 31, 2010, as well as persons executed in 2010. Tables present state-by-state information on the movement of prisoners into and out of death sentence status during 2010, status of capital statutes, and methods of execution. To view information on the report, go to <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2236>.

#### **Newsletter Discusses Collaboration in AMBER Alert Case**

The latest issue of *The AMBER Advocate* features an article about AMBER Alert coordinators in four states who worked together to save a mother and child. It also examines how states use the success of the AMBER Alert system to expand alerts for persons in other dangerous situations, including the “Blue Alert,” which notifies the public in some states when law enforcement officers are killed or injured in the line of duty, and the “Silver Alert,” for missing senior citizens. The newsletter is available at [http://amberalert.gov/newsroom/pdfs/advocate\\_1112.pdf](http://amberalert.gov/newsroom/pdfs/advocate_1112.pdf).

#### **Publication Addresses Youth Offenders in Adult Corrections**

It has been estimated that nearly 250,000 youth under age 18 end up in the adult criminal justice system every year. *You're an Adult Now: Youth in Adult Criminal Justice Systems* addresses the lack of information on how to manage youth offenders who are placed in adult jails or prisons or who are under community supervision. The monograph presents the findings of a panel of experts convened by the National Institute of Corrections to consider gaps in data collection and information, and identify successful strategies to curb delinquency. It is available at <http://static.nicic.gov/Library/025555.pdf>.

#### **OJJDP Releases Overview of Studies on How to Best Support Children Bullied in Schools**

Funded by OJJDP, researchers from the National Center for School Engagement conducted a series of studies to explore the connections between bullying in schools, school attendance and engagement, and academic achievement. *Bullying in Schools: An Overview*, provides an overview of the OJJDP-funded studies, a summary of the researchers' findings, and recommendations for policy and practice. It also compares the findings with those from a Swedish study on bullying, which is currently viewed as one of the most comprehensive studies on anti-bullying programs worldwide. The report is available at <http://www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/234205.pdf>.

#### **OJJDP Bulletin Reports Third Annual Decline in Juvenile Arrest Rates**

The number of juvenile Violent Crime Index offense arrests in 2009 was the lowest in two decades according to the new OJJDP report, *Juvenile Arrests 2009*, which is part of the *Juvenile Offenders and Victims National Report* series. This bulletin summarizes 2009 juvenile crime and arrest data reported by law enforcement agencies across the country. In 2009, arrest rates for nearly every offense category for both males and females and for white and minority youth decreased. The report is available at <http://www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/236477.pdf>.

**Program Provides Training about Jail Issues**

*The Jail as Part of County Government [Lesson Plans and Participant's Manual]* provides insight into the role of jails in the local criminal justice system, including an understanding of jail liability concerns, the elements of effective jail operations, and how to build cooperation and collaboration between decision makers in addressing jail issues. The program and lesson plans can be downloaded at <http://nicic.gov/Library/025394>.

**Online Resources****OJJDP to Host Restorative Justice Webinar**

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) will host *Bricks and Mortar of Restorative Justice: Built to Withstand the Winds of Change* on January 26 at 2:00 p.m. ET. OJJDP presenters will discuss how communities can use restorative justice as an effective, evidence-based alternative to court processing and punitive disciplinary approaches, and explain the role of victim, offender, and community in the restorative process. For more information, go to <http://www.ojjdp.gov/enews/flyer/ResJusWeb0126.pdf>.

**Webinar Offered on Building Resiliency within Victim Service Organizations**

The Office for Victims of Crime will conduct a Web Forum Guest Host Session on building resiliency within victim service organizations on January 27 at 2:00 p.m. ET. Janice Harris Lord, a Fellow in Thanatology at the Association of Death Education and Counseling, and Karen Kalergis, an Associate Director of Education and Communications at the Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, will lead the discussion. To participate in the Webinar, go to <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovcproviderforum/>; no preregistration is required.

**Webinar is Follow-up to APA Report on High Performance Prosecutorial Services**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance and Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA) are hosting *The High Performance Prosecution Model* on January 27 at 3:00 p.m. ET. This Webinar will discuss the framework and components of the high performance prosecution model. Examples of programs from offices across the country that are practicing high performing principles will also be presented. APA has applied for and expects to receive one credit hour of CLE certification for this training. To register, go to <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/510702814>.

**SPRC to Host Webinar on Bullying and Suicide Prevention**

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) will host the webinar, *Bullying and Suicide Prevention*, on Thursday, February 2, at 3:00 p.m. EST. Many schools and communities struggle to find effective ways to prevent both bullying and suicidal behavior among youth. This Webinar will provide the latest research and science on the relationship between bullying and suicide and will discuss the main principles of a comprehensive whole school approach to bullying prevention. This presentation will be interactive, with opportunities to ask questions. To register, go to <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/512217688>.

## **Conferences and Training**

### **Mass Violence/Emergency National Training Conference Scholarships Available**

From January 31 to February 2, the Office for Victims of Crime will sponsor the *Mass Violence and Emergency National Training Conference - Improving Readiness to Assist Victims* in Jacksonville, Florida. There is no registration fee to attend. Scholarships of up to \$1,000 are available for qualified new conference registrants, as well as those who have already registered, to help defray expenses associated with attending the conference. For more information, go to <https://www.thecjportal.org/CONF/Ovconf/Pages/default.aspx>.

### **Registration Open for Conference on Community Courts**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Center for Court Innovation will be hosting *Community Justice 2012*, the second International Conference on Community Courts, from January 31 to February 2, in Washington, DC. The conference will provide an opportunity for practitioners to learn about the latest developments in community court-related initiatives and important cutting-edge reforms. Information is available at [http://www.courtinnovation.org/sites/default/files/documents/C\\_J\\_2012\\_Agenda.pdf](http://www.courtinnovation.org/sites/default/files/documents/C_J_2012_Agenda.pdf).

### **Blueprints Conference Encourages Use of Evidence-Based Programs**

The *Blueprints for Violence Prevention Conference* will be held April 11-13, in San Antonio, Texas. The goal of the conference is to motivate the violence prevention field to adopt evidence-based programs and will provide support, guidance, and tools to help practitioners implement these programs successfully in their own communities. For more information, go to <http://www.blueprintsconference.com/>.

## **Announcement**

### **OVC Releases Information on FY 2011 Discretionary Grantees**

In FY 2011, OVC awarded more than \$23 million in discretionary grants. For more information about the FY 2011 discretionary grantees, view OVC's searchable table at [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/grants/disc\\_grant\\_awards\\_2011.html](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/grants/disc_grant_awards_2011.html). Grantees are listed by their grant program, organization, grant duration, award amount, and the area in which the grantee will serve.