

JRSA Electronic News

A monthly briefing for members

July 21, 2011

JRSA News

New SAC Director Appointed in Pennsylvania

Lee Ann Labecki was appointed in June to lead the Pennsylvania Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). Ms. Labecki is Director of the Office of Research, Evaluation, and Strategic Policy Development at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the agency where the SAC is housed. Prior to working at PCCD, she was President of Cupola 85, an independent consulting firm specializing in policy research. She has worked in a range of policy, research, information technology, and executive appointments in Pennsylvania State Government from 1986 through 2009. She served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Mark Schweiker and Policy Director and Deputy Policy Director for Governor Tom Ridge. At the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, she served as the Chief Information Officer and Director of Planning, Research, and Statistics. From 1992 to 1998, she also served as a consultant and instructor for the National Institute of Corrections' National Training Academy in Longmont, Colorado, assisting with the development of a national curriculum on Institutional Riots and Disturbance Management and the use of key indicator systems. She is a Summa Cum Laude Graduate of Gettysburg College and Pennsylvania State University and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Ms. Labecki has worked at PCCD as a consultant for the last two years.

National News

House Appropriations Committee Approves FY12 CJS Bill

Last Wednesday, the House Appropriations Committee voted to approve the draft FY12 appropriations bill for the Justice, Commerce, and State Departments. It includes \$1.7 billion for the state and local grant programs, a reduction of \$1.1 billion, or about 39 percent over FY11. Within that total, \$357 million was allocated for the Byrne JAG program, a 17 percent reduction from FY11 and a 31 percent reduction from FY10.

Funding levels for the Bureau of Justice Statistics went from \$60 million in FY11 to \$46.6 for FY12, and for the National Institute of Justice, from \$48 million to \$41 million. NIJ will also continue to receive additional funding (\$3 million) from the allocation to the Office of Violence Against Women and from the appropriation to the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (\$5 million), as well as from the DNA program. BJS would receive an additional \$6 million from the Criminal History Improvement Program and additional funding from the Prison Rape Elimination Act. The Subcommittee provided for the continuation of the one percent set aside of Office of Justice Programs' funding for research, statistics, and evaluation, not the increase to three percent the Administration requested.

Juvenile justice programming is cut by 50 percent from FY11 levels; RSAT by 40 percent; NICS by 71 percent; and OJP's management and administration account by 62 percent. If OJP's administration account is not restored, the funding necessary to run the agency will be taken off the top of the programs accounts, further reducing the state and local allocations. It eliminates funding for the COPS Hiring and SCAAP programs. The bill now goes to the House floor, where it is expected to be taken up later this month or in early August.

Senate Passes Bill Removing Requirement for Senate Confirmation for OJP Appointees

The Senate has approved a bill which would remove the requirement for Senate confirmation for about 12 percent of the executive branch positions eligible for appointment by the President. According to the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, the number of appointees requiring Senate confirmation has grown from 850 positions in 1960 to 1,215 today. Consequently, the confirmation process has slowed to such an extent that up to one-quarter of positions requiring Senate confirmation will not be installed in their jobs for 18 months or more into the new Administration's tenure. Under the bill, S. 679, the heads of the bureau agencies within OJP would no longer require Senate confirmation. They are the directors of the BJA, BJS, NIJ, OVC and OJJDP. While this bill would improve the speed by which presidential appointees assume leadership of their organizations, some feel that it takes the stature away from these organizations and decreases their influence in comparison to agencies whose directors still must be confirmed. A companion bill has not yet been introduced in the House. To view the Senate committee report, go to <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CRPT-112srpt24/pdf/CRPT-112srpt24.pdf>.

Publications

NIJ Responds to the NRC Report

Last July, in response to a request from the National Institute of Justice, the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences issued a report entitled, *Strengthening the National Institute of Justice*, which made recommendations regarding NIJ's role in supporting and sustaining the nation's scientific infrastructure of crime and criminal justice research. Last month, NIJ released *The National Institute of Justice Response to the Report of the National Research Council (NRC): Strengthening the National Institute of Justice*. This online publication, which presents the Director's 10-point vision for NIJ, discusses the Institute's accomplishments, and discusses three issues from the NRC report, is available at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/234630.pdf>.

NCJA Releases Report to Demonstrate Importance of Byrne JAG

The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) released a report, *Cornerstone for Justice: Byrne JAG and its Impact on the Criminal Justice System*, a primer on the criminal justice system as seen through the lens of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program. It describes current innovations in the various segments of the criminal justice system and Byrne JAG's role in spurring those practices. Each section contains statistics and innovative program examples from states across the

country. The report is intended to help cement positive branding for Byrne JAG and give the reader concrete examples of its importance in criminal justice policy.

NCJA is urging State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) to send the report to their congressional delegations and stakeholder community. The report is available at <http://www.ncja.org/byrnejagreport>.

Annual Report Provides Information on the Well Being of Children and Families

The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics released *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well Being, 2011*, which provides detailed information on the welfare of children and families, including statistics on family, social and physical environment; economic circumstances; health care; behavior; education; and health. OJJDP is one of 22 federal agencies that constitute the Forum, which has published this annual report since 1997. Findings from the 2011 report suggest that fewer 12th graders engaged in binge drinking, more 8th graders reported using drugs, and fewer teens died from injuries. Read more findings in the full report, available at <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/index.asp>.

NIJ Digest Reports on Completed NIJ-Funded Research

NIJ's *Research Report Digest* provides brief descriptions of NIJ-funded studies in various criminal justice disciplines, such as criminology and forensic sciences, and evaluations of technologies in the law enforcement and corrections fields. The most recent issue includes research that was added to the NCJRS Abstracts Database from October-December 2010, and is available at <http://www.nij.gov/nij/publications/digest/issue2.htm>.

Report Provides Information on Drug Use in Male Arrestees

ONDCP released, *ADAM II (Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring) 2010 Annual Report*, which presents results from the ADAM II program's fourth year of data collection. ADAM II is also the only Federal survey that offers a biological marker of recent use (urinalysis), which, when linked to interview data, validates information about recent drug use. Samples in ADAM II represent a group of drug users not well represented in any other survey: males 18 years and older at the point of their involvement in the criminal justice system. The publication is available at <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/pdf/adam2010.pdf>.

Guide Discusses Training Program for Professionals who Help Offenders Find Work

Individuals released from correctional facilities often find that finding employment is hindered by a host of barriers. To promote partnerships involving criminal justice agencies and community-based organizations and the development of a professional workforce prepared to help offenders with career planning, job placement, and job retention, the National Institute of Corrections developed Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) Partnership Training. Through this comprehensive training, carefully selected multidisciplinary teams acquire a set of professional competencies that address

challenges faced by offenders in their search for employment. *Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) Partnership Training Program: Administrative Guide* provides an overview of the program along with the information needed to make an informed decision about the application process for participating in the training program. It also includes the criteria for selecting a qualified, multidisciplinary team of trainees. The guide is available at <http://static.nicic.gov/Library/024759.pdf>.

National Drug Control Strategy Released

The Administration released the *2011 National Drug Control Strategy*, which focuses attention on drug prevention and early intervention programs in healthcare settings, diverting non-violent drug offenders into treatment instead of jail, funding more scientific research on drug use, expanding access to substance abuse treatment, and supporting those in recovery. To learn more about the strategy, the federal agency partners involved, and to find resources for state, local, and tribal partners, as well as for parents and youth, go to <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/strategy/>.

OJJDP Bulletin Summarizes Juvenile Residential Facility Census

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) published *Juvenile Residential Facility Census, 2008: Selected Findings*, which is part of the “Juvenile Offenders and Victims National Report Series.” The bulletin summarizes 2008 data from the biannual Juvenile Residential Facility Census, which collects information about the facilities in which juvenile offenders are held—including size, structure, type, ownership, and security arrangements, as well as the number of juveniles who died in custody during the past 12 months. The number of juvenile offenders in custody dropped 12 percent from 2006 to 2008, according to the bulletin, which is available at <http://www.ojjdp.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=253761>.

Fact Sheet Highlights Gang Survey Findings

OJJDP released *Highlights of the 2009 National Youth Gang Survey*, a summary of findings from the National Gang Center's latest annual survey, which collects data from a large, representative sample of local law enforcement agencies to monitor the size and scope of the national youth gang problem. Findings from the 2009 survey show that the prevalence rate of gang activity increased slightly from 2008 (32.4 percent) to 2009 (34.5 percent). The fact sheet is available at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/233581.pdf>.

Conferences and Trainings

Vera Institute’s CBKB to Host Webinar this Monday on Demystifying Victim Costs

The Cost Benefit Knowledge Bank for Criminal Justice is hosting a free Webinar to help demystify what victim costs are and how they apply to Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA). The webinar will provide an overview of the different types of victim costs, describe the methods used to estimate them, and present

cost estimates from a 2010 study. It will also explain how to use victim cost information in a CBA. The Webinar takes place this Monday, July 25 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern. For more information or to register, go to <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=ra5ygd1bnadr>.

OJJDP Training Center to Hold Webinar on DMC

On August 3, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern, OJJDP's National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC) will host the Webinar, *Disproportionate Minority Contact: Issues and Trends at the National, State, and Local Level*. The Webinar, which is designed for juvenile justice system stakeholders, youth advocates, and current OJJDP grant recipients, will describe the issues that state and local communities face when trying to reduce disproportionate minority contact (DMC). Representatives from four states will share their experiences and lessons learned in implementing delinquency prevention and systems improvement strategies that address DMC. For more information or to register, go to https://icfi.webex.com/mw0306ld/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=icfi&service=6&rnd=0.22283932796986372&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Ficfi.webex.com%2Fec0605ld%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26confViewID%3D757361674%26siteurl%3Dicfi%26%26%26.

Conference Planned to Examine “The New Normal” in Criminal Justice Information Systems

The National Association for Justice Information Systems is holding its 29th annual conference, “The New Normal,” in New Orleans, September 21-23. To view the agenda or register for the conference, go to <http://www.najis.org/component/content/article/1-latest/55-2011-najis-conference>. The early registration rate is available until August 5.

Announcements

OJP Launches Website to Help Policy Makers Identify Effective Evidence-Based Programs

OJP eagerly announced the launch of *CrimeSolutions.gov*, a resource for practitioners and policymakers to learn what works in justice-related programs and practices. The website is a searchable online database of evidence-based programs covering a range of justice-related topics, including corrections, courts, crime prevention, substance abuse, juveniles, law enforcement, technology and forensics, and victims. The website includes information on 150 programs and assigns ratings indicating whether there is evidence from research that a program is “effective,” “promising,” or has “no effect” in achieving its goals. As Assistant Attorney General Laurie O. Robinson explained “We all have tight budgets today. CrimeSolutions.gov helps us take a ‘smart on crime’ approach that relies on data-driven, evidence-based analysis to identify and replicate justice-related programs that have shown real results in preventing and reducing crime and serving crime victims.” For more information visit <http://ww.crimesolutions.gov> or contact Phelan Wyrick at phelan.wyrick@usdoj.gov; to view the OJP Press Release about Crimesolutions.gov, go to <http://www.ojp.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/2011/OJP11105.htm>.

West Virginia SAC Needs Entry-Level Researchers

The West Virginia SAC is looking for candidates to fill three Research Specialist I positions. Successful candidates would perform beginning level technical and analytical work of a quantitative and qualitative nature in the area of social and behavioral sciences involving research, statistics, evaluation and forecasting; provide analysis and research support for state-level planning and development; apply established theory, techniques and methodology to research and reporting assignments; develop, design, coordinate, review and analyze research projects; and perform related work as required. For more information on this and other employment opportunities listed on JRSA's Website, go to <http://www.jrsa.org/resources/employment.htm#wv1>.

OVC Requests Nominations for Crime Victims' Service Awards

To help ensure that outstanding service providers and programs are given the recognition they deserve, the Office for Victims of Crime is accepting nominations for the 2012 National Crime Victims' Service Awards. New award categories are: Crime Victims' Rights Award and Crime Victims Financial Restoration Award. The deadline to submit nominations is Wednesday, September 7, 2011. To learn more about the awards or how to submit nominations, go to <https://ovcnvrvw.ncjrs.gov/awards/default.html>.