

# JRSA Electronic News

A monthly briefing for members

July 25, 2012

## SAC News

### **Georgia Welcomes a New Interim SAC Director**

Misty Giles is the Deputy Director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the state of Georgia and is serving as interim director of the State's SAC. Prior to joining the CJCC team, Ms. Giles served for five years, across two administrations, in the Governor's Office, where she held both policy and budgetary roles within the criminal justice area. Serving as Division Director over the Public Safety and General Government division in the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Ms. Giles managed a portfolio that included the budgets of 45 state entities and provided guidance for approximately \$2 million of Georgia's general fund. Before joining the Governor's budget team, she served as the criminal justice policy advisor for four years, where she analyzed federal legislation and created criminal justice policy solutions for the state. Ms. Giles attended the University of Georgia for her Master of Arts in political science and Georgia Southern University for her Bachelor of Arts with an emphasis in political science and history.

### **Wyoming SAC's Wambeam Featured on SAMHSA Website**

Hats off to Rodney Wambeam, Senior Research Scientist at the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC), for his analysis of underage drinking in Wyoming. His research is featured in an article on the Prevention Training and Technical Assistance section of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) website. An initial analysis of underage drinking data from 2005 through 2009 showed reductions in youth drinking rates, but the decrease was not large enough to be able to attribute it to Wyoming's prevention efforts funded through its Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG), which ended in 2010. In January 2012, Wambeam returned to his analysis—this time including data collected in 2011 and found that youth past-month use had decreased by 20 percent and youth binge drinking had dropped by 21 percent. Digging deeper, he compared his recent data with data from the years 1991 to 1999—before Wyoming embraced comprehensive, science-based prevention in a dedicated way, which allowed him to construct a “before” and “after” snapshot of evidence-based prevention in the state. For information on his findings, go to <http://captus.samhsa.gov/access-resources/wyoming-prevention-efforts-show-results>.

## **Publications**

### **BJS Releases Reports on Crime Against the Elderly...**

A report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) found that half of violent victimizations of persons age 65 or older in Michigan involved serious violence, such as murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery and aggravated assault, based on data from crimes known to Michigan law enforcement from 2005 to 2009. The report, *Violent Crime against the Elderly Reported by Law Enforcement in Michigan, 2005-2009*, also found that a family member was identified as the perpetrator in half of violent victimizations against the elderly during the five-year period. The victim's child or grandchild was the offender in nearly a third of the victimizations. An intimate partner was the perpetrator in about 13 percent, and other relatives were linked to about 6 percent of victimizations. For more information or to read the report, go to <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4352>.

### **...and Immigration Offenders**

Apprehensions for immigration violations peaked at 1.8 million in 2000 but dropped to 516,992 in 2010—the lowest level since 1972, according to a new report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Immigration Offenders in the Federal Justice System* presents data on criminal and civil immigration violations handled by the federal justice system over the last decade, and examines the various ways immigration violator cases are processed based on the type of offense, the suspect's prior record, and the district in which the suspect is apprehended. The report and data files are available at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4392>.

### **OJP Releases Fact Sheet on Drug Courts**

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), in collaboration with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the National Institute of Justice, and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, released a fact sheet titled *Drug Courts*, which examines adult and juvenile drug court program models and provides facts, research findings, and additional resources regarding drug courts. It is available at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/238527.pdf>.

### **Evaluation Finds Mental Health Courts Effective at Reducing Recidivism**

The Urban Institute released an evaluation of two New York City mental health courts that shows that participants are significantly less likely to reoffend than similar offenders whose cases are handled in the traditional court system. Researchers compared participants in the Brooklyn Mental Health Court, a demonstration project of the Center for Court Innovation, and the Bronx Mental Health Court with two matched sets of offenders who were identified as having mental health disorders while held at Rikers Island. Among other results, the study found that rearrest rates for participants in both mental health Courts were significantly lower than for the comparison groups. Consistent with other research, the study documents that younger offenders reoffended at significantly higher rates than older offenders and that recidivism rates were not affected by the diagnoses of the offenders. More information and the publication are available at <http://www.urban.org/publications/412603.html>.

### **Prosecutors Issue New Guide to Innovation, Evidence-Based Practices**

The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA) developed a series of publications to provide knowledge about, insight on, and examples of innovative practices to create safer communities. They just released the most recent report in that series, *The Prosecutor's Policy Guide: A Roadmap to Innovation*, which was published in partnership with the Public Welfare Foundation, to “assist prosecutors’ offices in positioning themselves to embrace innovation and those innovative practices which are making our justice system more efficient and effective.” The guide is available at <http://apainc.org/default.aspx?act=Newsletter.aspx&category=APA+Highlights&newsletterid=1616&menugroup=Home>.

### **Survey of LGBT Youth Highlights Quality of Life Factors**

The Human Rights Campaign recently released *Growing Up LGBT in America*, a study of 10,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) young people and straight youth ages 13-17. The study is the largest known survey of LGBT youth. A major finding of the study was that LGBT youth are twice as likely as their peers to say they have been physically assaulted, kicked, or shoved at school. More than one-half of LGBT youth (54 percent) say they have been verbally harassed and called names involving anti-gay slurs. To view the report, go to [http://www.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/Growing-Up-LGBT-in-America\\_Report.pdf](http://www.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/Growing-Up-LGBT-in-America_Report.pdf). To view the major findings, go to <http://www.hrc.org/youth/view-statistics>.

### **Article Discusses Need for Collaboration between Statisticians and Forensic Scientists**

An article in AMSTATNEWS, the magazine of the American Statistical Association, describes steps the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has taken over the last few years to address weaknesses in forensic science identified in the 2009 National Academies Report, *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*. The article, *NIJ Looking for a Few Good Statisticians: Forensic science R&D benefits from statistical support*," discusses NIJ's goal of increasing the involvement of statisticians in solicitations for research to bolster the scientific foundations of forensic science disciplines. The article is available at <http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2012/05/31/nij/>.

### **SAMHSA Releases Toolkit for Suicide Prevention in High Schools**

The [Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#) of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has 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. It also includes information on screening tools, warning signs and risk factors, statistics, and parent education materials. The toolkit is free and available at <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA12-4669/SMA12-4669.pdf>.

## **Conferences, Training, and Webinars**

### **Webinars Focus on Using Evidence-Based Program Registries to Select Anti-Bullying Programs**

On July 25 and 26, the Federal Partners for Bullying Prevention will sponsor the webinar, *Using Evidence-based Registries for Program Selection — Realities for Bullying Prevention*. The July 25 webinar will run from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., Eastern Time, and the July 26 webinar will run from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Eastern Time. Presenters will discuss how program managers use national registries of evidence-based programs to gauge the effectiveness and appropriateness of bullying prevention programs that they are considering for implementation. To register, go to <http://safesupportiveschools.ed.gov/register.php?eid=1634>

### **Certificate Program for Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Leaders Announced**

On November 7-14 in Washington, DC, the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute will present *Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare: Multi-System Integration Certificate Program for Private Sector Leaders*. This program will highlight multi-system reform efforts related to crossover youth and how to improve the ability of private organizations to serve these youth. The program is geared toward service providers that work with youth known to the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. However, advocates, academicians, foundation staff and others whose work is closely related to improving service delivery for this population and enhancing relationships between the private and public sectors will also benefit from attending this program. For more information, go to <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/certprogs/private/certificateprivate.html>.

### **Training Offered on Juvenile Justice Court and Diversion Programs**

Global Youth Justice will host its 6th Annual Institute, *Establish/Enhance/Expand a Local Teen Court/Youth Court Diversion Program*, on December 4–6, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Topics include training youth and adult volunteers, offering quality community services and programs, conducting mock family intake meetings, writing grants, identifying funding and resources, and more. For more information, go to [http://www.globalyouthjustice.org/Training\\_and\\_Events.html](http://www.globalyouthjustice.org/Training_and_Events.html).

### **Training Available for Rural Law Enforcement Officers**

The Small, Rural, Tribal, and Border (SRTB) Regional Center is accepting applications to attend the *Rural Law Enforcement Technology Institute (RLETI)*, which will be held October 28 to November 2, in Annapolis, Maryland. The institute, sponsored by the National Institute of Justice, provides an opportunity for rural law enforcement officers to learn about and discuss technology initiatives and issues affecting the rural law enforcement community. **Applying for the RLETI is a competitive process;** participants will receive information and assistance on existing and developing technologies, work through problems relating to technology implementation, and exchange technology lessons learned that are important to the small, rural, tribal and border law enforcement community. **Applications must be received by August 28.** For more information, go to <http://srtbrc.org/RLETI/>.