

# JRSA Electronic News

## A monthly briefing for members

November 30, 2011

### JRSA News

#### **JRSA Welcomes New Directors to the DC and Kansas SACs**

**Mannone A. Butler** was appointed Executive Director of the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) in May 2011, and as such serves as the District's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) Director. CJCC, an independent District agency, serves as the forum to facilitate and support systemic planning, analysis, information sharing, problem solving, and cooperation among local, federal, legislative, executive, and judicial partners to address criminal and juvenile justice issues facing the District of Columbia.

Ms. Butler began her career with the CJCC in 2006 as a Legal Advisor/Program Analyst. In that capacity, she provided general legal and policy analyses on interagency criminal and juvenile justice issues. She also served as Deputy Executive Director, where she was responsible for managing the implementation of the agency's strategic priorities and day to day operations. She was the Interim Executive Director prior to her appointment.

Before joining the CJCC, Ms. Butler was a Senior Associate in the Washington, DC law firm of Curtis White, Esq. specializing in telecommunications and information technology. She also served as the Senior Associate for ALTA Consulting Group, a Washington DC consulting firm specializing in public policy development, project management, and organizational development. In addition, she served as the Director of Program Operations for the Urban Family Institute, a nonprofit organization that serves youth and families nationally. While at the Urban Family Institute, she developed the Bridge, a program, supported by Maryland's Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services in partnership with the Eastern Correctional Institution, for incarcerated fathers to engage with and stay connected to their children.

Ms. Butler is a native Washingtonian. She earned her B.S. in finance from Georgetown University and J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. After graduating from law school, Ms. Butler served as a Law Fellow for Georgetown University Law Center's Street Law Clinic.

On October 24, longtime Kansas SAC director **Jan Brasher** retired, and Senior Research Analyst **Fengfang Lu** was appointed to the director position. Ms. Lu has been with the Kansas Sentencing Commission, where the SAC is housed, since 1998, when she was hired as a Research Analyst II. She was promoted to the Senior Research Analyst in 2003. For the past thirteen years, Ms. Lu has conducted extensive criminal justice research for the SAC, including adult prison population projections and custody classification projections, as well as legislative impact assessments on incarcerated adult and juvenile populations. She is the primary author since 1998 of the *Kansas Sentencing Commission Annual Report*, and a coauthor on the annual *Adult Inmate Prison Population Projections*. She also manages and

maintains the Commission's sentencing databases including designing and developing databases, reprogramming codes, and performing data quality assurance. She has a Master of Arts in Education from University of Missouri-Kansas City, a Specialist in Education degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and is a Master of Science candidate in Accounting at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

## **National News**

*Information in this section is excerpted from November issues of the National Criminal Justice Association InfoLetter.*

### **FY12 Justice Appropriation Bill Becomes Law**

As part of a "minibus" with two other appropriations bills, the FY12 CJS funding bill became law on Friday, November 18. With little of the drama that has characterized past appropriations fights—and which may characterize passage of the remaining FY12 appropriations bills— the House passed the reconciled conference report on Thursday. The Senate followed suit on Friday, and the President signed the bill late Friday night. Included in the bill was Continuing Resolution language extending funding for all remaining federal agencies through December 16. It is almost certain that the remaining appropriations bills will become part of a large omnibus bill which is expected to pass in late December.

The final CJS bill, H.R. 2112, includes \$45 million for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), but mandates \$26 million be used to implement the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), and \$10 million to continue NCVS redesign efforts. In FY 2011, BJS received slightly less than \$60 million. The conferees also directed BJS to spend \$500,000 on crime data in Indian country. The bill allocated \$1 million for the What Works Repository Evaluation Clearinghouse. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) was allocated \$40 million, of which \$5 million will transfer to the National Institute on Standards and Technology for DNA/Forensics work. The comparable FY 2011 figure was slightly less than \$48 million. NIJ would get \$3 million from the appropriation for the Office of Violence Against Women. It also received \$4 million from the allocation for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants for research on domestic radicalization.

In addition to these direct appropriations, the bill permits up to three percent of grant and reimbursement program funds made available to the Office of Justice Programs to be used for training and technical assistance; permits up to two percent of grant funds made available to that office to be used for criminal justice research, evaluation, and statistics by NIJ and BJS; and directs that of such amounts transferred to NIJ and BJS, \$1.3 million shall be transferred to the Bureau of Prisons.

The bill also includes \$352 million for the Byrne JAG formula grant program, reflecting a 17 percent cut from the level in FY11. The bill restored, but severely cut, funding for the COPS Hiring (cut by 43 percent), SCAAP (12 percent), and Second Chance Act programs (24 percent). Each of these programs had been eliminated entirely in either the House or Senate versions of the bill. Some programs, most notably those under the Office of Violence Against Women, were kept at level funding. Many others, however, took dramatic cuts, such as the border prosecutors' initiative (65 percent), RSAT (60 percent), Paul Coverdell program (59 percent), NICS (71 percent), and JABG (35 percent).

## **OJP Sets New Rule on Allowable Expenses at Conferences; NCJA and Other Groups Respond**

According to a new directive, funding from the Office of Justice Programs (including BJS, BJA, or NIJ) may not be used to purchase food and/or beverages for any meeting, conference, training, or other event. The new policy is in response to a recent report from the Office of the Inspector General (IG) criticizing excessive spending at some conferences, including a conference which was reported to have paid \$16 for muffins, a finding that has since been recanted by the IG's office. The restriction, however, does not impact direct payment of per diem amounts to individuals attending a meeting or conference. Also, exceptions may be made for remote locations (where food otherwise may not be available) and for special presentations during a meal hour (with prior OJP approval).

NCJA, JRSA, and 23 other national stakeholder organizations sent a letter last week to the Attorney General commenting on the impact of this rule. "We strongly believe this new practice, though well-intentioned, will have a negative impact on our ability to provide quality professional development opportunities to our constituencies," the executive directors wrote. They went on to say that hotels and other meeting venues price conferences as complete packages, with food and beverage costs often offsetting discounts in guest and meeting room charges and other conference fees. Their conclusion is that "[i]f conference organizers no longer purchase food and beverages, these concessions will no longer be available and the cost of the basic services, such as guest and meeting rooms, will rise."

## **Publications**

### **BJS Releases Reports on Probation and Parole, ARD, and Homicide Trends**

*Probation and Parole in the United States, 2010* presents statistics about adult offenders under community supervision while on probation or parole during 2010, and examines changes in community supervision populations during 2010 and prior years. It is available at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2239>.

*Arrest-Related Deaths, 2003-2009 - Statistical Tables* provides data on the circumstances of deaths that occur during, or shortly after, state or local law enforcement officers engage in an arrest or restraint process. It is available at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2228>.

*Homicide Trends in the United States, 1980-2008* presents findings from data on homicides that occurred in the United States from 1980 through 2008. The report also includes annual rates for 2009 and 2010. It is available at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2221>.

### **NIJ Study Finds School Interventions Significantly Reduce Dating Violence**

A National Institute of Justice (NIJ) study found that school-level interventions reduced dating violence as much as 50 percent in 30 New York City public schools. These interventions included using school-based restraining orders, increasing faculty and security presence in dating violence "hot spots," and hanging posters to increase awareness of the issue and encourage students to report it to officials. "The success of school-level interventions is particularly important because they can be implemented with very few extra costs to schools. The scientific methods in this study were rigorous," said NIJ Director John H. Laub. The full report can be found at [www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/236175.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/236175.pdf), and a press release about the study is available at [www.ojp.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/2011/OJP\\_PR-110911.pdf](http://www.ojp.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/2011/OJP_PR-110911.pdf).

## **Fact Sheet Highlights Statewide Coordination Efforts of Problem-Solving Courts**

In 2008, in an effort to help statewide problem-solving court coordinators assess their work and find new ways to advance their goals, the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Center for Court Innovation held a roundtable discussion that brought together court administrators, policymakers, researchers, and representatives of national organizations. *Statewide Coordination of Problem-Solving Courts: A Snapshot of Five States* draws upon that 2008 roundtable discussion, as well as on interviews with statewide coordinators in five states, to identify the most common goals of statewide coordination. The states surveyed are California, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, and New York. The fact sheet is available at [http://www.bja.gov/pdf/CCI\\_ProblemSolvingCoord.pdf](http://www.bja.gov/pdf/CCI_ProblemSolvingCoord.pdf).

## **Latest NIJ Journal Now Available**

NIJ has released *NIJ Journal No. 268*, which focuses on using research to reformulate the response to transnational organized crime. Other articles discuss the strengthening of NIJ's mission, improvements to NIJ's peer-review process, gaps in corrections and recidivism, and findings on the safety of conducted energy devices. The Journal is available at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/235888.pdf>.

## **Conferences and Trainings**

### **OVC to Hold Mass Violence/Emergency National Training Conference**

On January 31 through February 2, 2012, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) will sponsor the *Mass Violence and Emergency National Training Conference - Improving Readiness to Assist Victims*, in Jacksonville, Florida. The conference brings together victim service providers and allied professionals to share experiences and knowledge about responding to victims, survivors, and communities. For more information, go to <http://www.thecjportal.org/CONF/Ovconf/Pages/default.aspx>.

### **National Conference to Address Bullying**

The School Safety Advisory Council is holding the National Conference on Bullying, February 15-17, 2012, in Orlando, Florida. This National Conference will take an in depth look at the causes, prevention, and mitigation of what has become one of our nation's most pressing problems. Speakers will address cyber bullying and the reality TV generation, as well as many other topics. The conference will also include a Bullying Program Showcase, which will highlight anti-bullying programs that have been deemed successful. For more information, go to <http://www.schoolsafety911.org/event05.html>.

## **Online Resources**

### **BJA Website Showcases Promising JAG-Funded Programs**

In an effort to identify and highlight subgrantee and/or statewide projects that have demonstrated success or shown promise in meeting the objectives and goals of JAG while positively impacting communities, the Bureau of Justice Assistance designed the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Success Web page. The purpose of the page is to serve as a resource for criminal justice policy makers and practitioners of innovative, results-oriented projects that have been funded with JAG money in the last several years. To

submit information about a successful JAG-funded program in your state or community, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/programs/sendjagstories.html>.

### **Online Grant Writing and Management Assistance Offered**

The BJA Grant Writing and Management Academy, available online, was designed for criminal justice practitioners and state, local, and tribal jurisdictions (including any community- and/or faith-based partners) that apply for or receive federal grants. This training provides an overview of project planning, management, administration, and assessment of federally funded programs. It is available at <http://bj.ncjrs.gov/gwma/index.html>.

### **DOJ Releases Video on Tribal Youth and Their Communities**

The U.S. Department of Justice released a public service announcement (PSA) on the issues that tribal youth identified as important to address with their tribal leaders. The announcement, called "That's My People," was developed and filmed at the 2011 National Intertribal Youth Summit at the Santa Fe Indian School in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The PSA is available online at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFjJT\\_0r9LE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFjJT_0r9LE). For more information about the Justice Department's work with tribal justice and safety, visit [www.justice.gov/tribal/](http://www.justice.gov/tribal/).

## **Announcements**

### **Family Court Review Calls for Papers**

*Family Court Review*, the journal of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, is seeking submissions for a special issue dedicated to immigration issues and the family court's obligation to serve families and children. Scholars, practitioners, judges, policymakers, and family and child experts are encouraged to contribute. The deadline to submit papers is June 1, 2012. For more information, go to <http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=1531-2445>.

### **Survey on Substance Abuse Prevention Seeks Participants**

The Partnership at Drugfree.org is seeking participants from the fields of law enforcement, education, and substance abuse prevention/treatment to respond to a survey designed to increase understanding of the best way to develop collaborations between law enforcement, substance abuse prevention agencies, and educators to prevent teens and young adults from engaging in substance abuse. The survey, which is funded by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, takes between 10 and 15 minutes to complete. It can be found at <http://pact360.org/about-the-pact360-community-needs-assessment/>.