

# JRSA Electronic News

A monthly briefing for members

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## SAC News

### **Idaho SAC Evaluates Truancy Reduction Initiative**

Last month, the Idaho Statistical Analysis Center released *An Evaluation of a Comprehensive Community Initiative: Switch-Track*. The Switch-Track initiative focuses available resources on programs to "switch youth from a track of gangs, violence, and drug use toward becoming positive contributors to the community." The SAC's evaluation of Switch-Track was designed to better understand the initiative's process and development, problems encountered, and solutions created, and to assess the overall project impact. The report is available at

<http://www.isp.idaho.gov/pgr/Research/documents/SwitchTrackFinal.pdf>.

### **Mapping Journal Published by Nevada SAC Accepting Submissions on RTM**

The [Center for the Analysis of Crime Statistics](#), University of Nevada Las Vegas, which serves as the state's Statistical Analysis Center, publishes *Crime Mapping: A Journal of Research and Practice*. The Center announced that it is currently accepting manuscript submissions for a special issue on Risk Terrain Modeling (RTM). Submissions considered for publication in this special issue could focus on a variety of topics, including, but not limited to: (a) the use of RTM to forecast crime events; (b) the practical application of RTM outside the law enforcement setting; (c) assessing the impact of interventions to reduce crime risk based on RTM; (d) assessing the predictive validity of RTM; (e) assessing the selection criteria used in determining which risk layers to include in RTM; (f) the use of RTM to advance our understanding of the role that place-based context plays in crime forecasting; (g) testing the statistical power of RTM across different crime contexts; (h) measuring/operationalizing mitigating risk factors; and (i) determining the methods for and impact of weighting risk factors that are used to create RTM risk layers. For more information, go to <http://cacs.unlv.edu/CrimeMapping/submit.html>

### **South Carolina SAC Releases Publication on Crime Trends**

The South Carolina Statistical Analysis Center just released *South Carolina Criminal and Juvenile Justice Trends 2011*, which provides basic information about criminal and juvenile justice in South Carolina. It also provides simple statistical information about crime rates, arrests, the courts, inmates, probationers, and parolees. Finally, it addresses crime-related issues of concern and seeks to clarify misconceptions about the state's criminal justice system. The report is available at

[http://www.scdps.org/ojp/stats/cjtrends/index\\_cjtrends.html](http://www.scdps.org/ojp/stats/cjtrends/index_cjtrends.html)

## **National News**

### **National Panel to Study Causes and Consequences of U.S. Incarceration Rate**

On April 5, *The Crime Report* wrote that the National Research Council (part of the National Academy of Sciences) launched a project to study the "causes and consequences of high rates of incarceration" in the United States. The project involves a panel of eighteen leading scholars and experts on corrections and related fields and is chaired by Jeremy Travis, president of John Jay College of Criminal Justice. The panel will examine the reasons for the dramatic increases in U.S. incarceration rates since the 1970s, which have produced one of the world's highest incarceration levels, with more than 2.3 million people behind bars in U.S. prisons and jails at any time. The new project somewhat parallels ongoing or proposed work, including projects by the Pew Center on the States and affiliated organizations on sentencing reform in several states, and a national criminal justice commission proposed by Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA) that is yet to be approved by Congress.

The topic has been widely discussed and analyzed for years by advocacy groups on the left and right, as well as by individual scholars. But the two-year, \$1.5 million project represents the first time in recent memory that these issues have been subject to wide-ranging, cross-disciplinary research. "It now is time to review the state of knowledge—to look at the causes of the high rate of incarceration and the consequences for society," said Travis, author of *But They All Came Back: Facing the Challenges of Prisoner Reentry* (2005). Project funding is split between the National Institute of Justice—the research arm of the Department of Justice Dr. Travis formerly headed—and the Chicago-based John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. For more information on the project and a list of panel members, go to <http://www.thecrimereport.org/news/inside-criminal-justice/2012-04-examining-us-corrections-policy>.

### **OVW Has New Acting Director**

Attorney General Eric Holder announced on April 6 that Beatrice (Bea) Hanson was named Acting Director of the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women (OVW). Before joining OVW in May, 2011 as Principle Deputy Director, Dr. Hanson served as Chief Program Officer for Safe Horizon, a crime victim service organization in New York City that serves 350,000 victims of violence and abuse annually. She joined Safe Horizon (formerly Victim Services) in 1997 as the Director of Emergency Services, and went on to oversee the agency's domestic violence, homeless youth, and child abuse programs before being promoted to Chief Program Officer.

During her tenure at Safe Horizon, she doubled domestic shelter capacity and tripled revenue in four years for the country's largest domestic violence shelter provider. She also advocated and collaborated with city and state governments to establish Child Advocacy Centers in Manhattan and the Bronx, co-locating the police, assistant district attorneys, child protection workers, and medical providers to serve victims of child sexual and severe physical abuse.

Dr. Hanson has a Ph.D. in Social Welfare from City University of New York, a Master of Social Work degree from Hunter College, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan.

*The following articles are excerpted from April issues of the National Criminal Justice Association's InfoLetter and Justice Bulletin.*

### **OJP Sets Policy for Administration of SORNA Penalty**

At the end of March, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) announced its policy for calculating and awarding the penalty for states not in compliance with the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). Penalty for non-compliance with SORNA is the withholding of 10 percent of a state's Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) award. The announcement about the administration of the penalty was made concurrent with the release of the FY12 Byrne JAG grant solicitations.

Byrne JAG grants are awarded in two parts: 40 percent of a state's allocation is awarded directly by the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to units of local government; 60 percent is allocated to the State Administering Agency (SAA) for award across the state and local criminal justice system. According to the statute, a state must pass through a certain percentage of its award to units of local government, based on the relative percentage of criminal justice spending by the state and its units of local government.

Under the new OJP policy, the SORNA penalty will be levied on the state award only (not on the direct BJA grants to local governments) and only on that portion of the state award that remains at the state level, including the under-\$10,000 awards, after the "variable pass-through" percentage is calculated.

Procedurally, the penalty will be administered as a separate Byrne JAG award by the SAA. For the 34 states that applied for reallocation of the penalty, the SAA will be required to subgrant the penalty amount to the SORNA administering agency.

### **VAWA Bill Introduced in House**

On March 27, Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI) introduced a Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization bill (H.R. 4271). It is a companion to the bill now moving through the Senate, S. 1925, sponsored by Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Michael Crapo (R-ID). The bill's introduction was timed to allow for a discussion of VAWA in the context of the debate on the FY13 budget. A VAWA reauthorization bill drafted by a bipartisan committee is expected to be released later in the spring.

### **NGA Announces Project on Prescription Drug Abuse**

The National Governors Association (NGA) announced the creation of a project, led by Alabama Governor Robert Bentley (R) and Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper (D), to address the growing problem of prescription drug abuse. The Prescription Drug Abuse Reduction Policy Academy will be a year-long exercise in strategic planning aimed at reducing prescription drug abuse. The project will include five competitively selected states in addition to Alabama and Colorado. Under the leadership of Governors Bentley and Hickenlooper, NGA staff will work with the seven state teams of senior-level criminal justice and health policymakers to examine a variety of issues, including: building and governing a prescription drug monitoring program and implementing privacy safeguards; assessing legislative, regulatory, and information exchange barriers; developing a coordinated state response across agencies; coordinating across states and within regions; examining best practices in treatment; responding to illicit access points such as online pharmacies; and coordinating education, tracking, and monitoring, proper medication disposal, and enforcement efforts.

## **Publications and Online Resources**

### **Report Examines Series Victimization in the NCVS**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics recently released *Methods for Counting High-Frequency Repeat Victimization in the National Crime Victimization Survey*. This technical report assesses the general patterns of victims' responses to being asked, "How many times did this type of incident occur?" and provides data on how reports of high-frequency repeat victimizations have changed over time. It describes how different procedures for counting series victimizations would affect estimates of the level and annual rate of change in victimization for various crime types and incident characteristics, and also describes how BJS will change its counting practices for estimating annual victimization rates in future reports. The report is available at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2240>.

### **OJJDP Releases Second Issue of Journal**

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) just published the second issue of its online, semiannual, peer-reviewed *Journal of Juvenile Justice*. This issue features articles on truancy intervention, polygraph testing for juveniles, homeless youth and arrest history, education in juvenile detention facilities, and juvenile reentry. Manuscripts for the third and fourth issues are currently being accepted. Visit the *Journal of Juvenile Justice* Web site for details: <http://www.journalofjuvjustice.org>

### **"DC Public Safety" Features NIC Study on Motivational Interviewing in Corrections**

On March 22, "DC Public Safety" aired a segment featuring Bradford Bogue and Anjali Nandi, coauthors of the National Institute of Corrections publication, *Motivational Interviewing in Corrections: A Comprehensive Guide to Implementing MI in Corrections*. This study discusses the positive effects of using motivational interviewing with offenders. DC Public Safety is an online network of radio and television shows, blogs, and transcripts on crime, criminal offenders, and the criminal justice system. To listen to the broadcast or download a copy of the transcript, go to <http://media.csosa.gov/podcast/audio/2012/03/motivational-interviewing-in-corrections-national-institute-of-corrections-dc-public-safety-radio/>.

## **Conferences and Training**

### **Registration Open for NIJ Conference**

The National Institute of Justice Research Conference 2012 will be held June 18-20, in Arlington, Virginia. NIJ's annual conference brings together criminal justice scholars, policymakers, and practitioners at the local, state, and federal levels to share the most recent findings from research and technology. The conference showcases "what works" and what the research shows as promising. It also puts a heavy emphasis on the benefits to researchers and practitioners who work together to create effective evidence-based policies and practices. For more information, go to <http://www.nijconference2012.com/>.

### **Online Registration for CADCA's 2012 Mid-Year Training Institute Now Open**

The Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) announced that its Mid-Year Training Institute will be held July 22-26 in Nashville, Tennessee. CADCA's Mid-Year is the only intensive, coalition-specific training opportunity of its kind, providing in-depth courses specifically designed to address the concerns and challenges faced by community leaders. For more information or to register, go to the 2012 Mid-Year Web site at <http://midyear.cadca.org>.

### **Early Registration Open for NCPC 2012 National Conference**

The National Center for Victims of Crime will hold its 2012 National Conference on September 19-21 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The conference will emphasize a multidisciplinary approach to sharing promising practices, current research, and effective programs and policies that are victim-centered, practice-based, and research-informed. For more information, go to [http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbID=DB\\_2012NationalConference207](http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbID=DB_2012NationalConference207).

### **NCPC Offers Training**

The National Crime Prevention Council offers training throughout the year, which can count toward certification as a National Crime Prevention Specialist. Registration is available online at <http://www.ncpc.org/training>, or contact Sarita Hill Coletrane at 202-261-4162 or [coletrane@ncpc.org](mailto:coletrane@ncpc.org) for a registration form and flyer. NCPA members receive a 20% discount on all of NCPC's trainings.

Examples of available courses are:

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design for Abandoned Homes and Foreclosed Properties, June 5-7 in East Hazel, IL
- Basic and School Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, June 25-28 in Centennial, CO
- School Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, July 24-26 in Camp Hill, PA
- Advanced Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, July 31-August 3, in Anchorage, AK

## **Announcements**

### **Enhancing Legal Assistance to Crime Victims**

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is accepting *Statements of Interest* from qualified nonprofit organizations and individual subject matter experts who are interested in participating in a national initiative to enhance legal assistance to crime victims. The definition of "participation" will vary depending on the organization or expert, and may range from providing basic feedback on the concept to more substantial involvement, such as helping to develop and deliver training content. OVC's Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC) will maintain a comprehensive database of all interested parties, and will keep all parties informed of the progress of the initiative. For more information on this initiative, go to <https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/dspLegalAssistance.cfm>.