

JRSA Electronic News

A monthly briefing for members

April 2008

SAC News

Sonya Lars is the new director of the Louisiana SAC. Ms. Lars has been with the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE), where the SAC is housed, since 2002, when she was hired to be the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program Manager. She also managed the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) Program. Ms. Lars has worked at the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance and the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. She received her Bachelor of Science and Masters of Public Administration from Southern University in Baton Rouge, and is pursuing a Masters of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary. As a native of Shreveport and now based in Baton Rouge, Ms. Lars has experienced the very diverse cultures of both the northern and southern portions of the state. These distinctive cultures have had a bearing on how she views the law enforcement community and the problems in each part of the state.

Publications

Assisting Americans Victimized in Other Countries

Greater numbers of U.S. citizens live or travel overseas for business, study, or vacation, and they may be more vulnerable to crime than local citizens because they are more likely to lack the language skills, geographic bearings, or "street smarts" that apply in a particular country. The Office for Victims of Crime recently published *Resource Guide for Serving U.S. Citizens Victimized Abroad* to help victim service providers in the United States enhance their services to these individuals. This electronic publication, which is available at

<http://www.ovc.gov/publications/infores/ServingVictimsAbroad/welcome.html>, will help service providers develop strategic plans and ensure that key personnel, resources, and protocols are in place for effective assistance.

New Community Policing Newsletter Released

The Community Policing Dispatch is a new monthly e-newsletter from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) that is intended to educate readers about criminal justice issues affecting community policing. The April issue features articles about designing police buildings with community policing in mind, the COPS Secure Our Schools Program, and tribal law enforcement agencies. The Community Policing Dispatch is available at

http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/April_2008/index.htm.

Community Prevention Grants Program Report

Title V Community Prevention Grants Program: 2004-2005 Report to Congress (NCJ 215559, 31 pp.) reviews the background of the Title V program; highlights state, local, and federal activities in 2004 and 2005; and outlines OJJDP's plans for enhancing the impact of Title V funds. Established by Congress in 1992, the Title V Program supports state and local efforts to reduce risk factors associated with juvenile delinquency and enhance protective factors that promote healthy personal and social development. To date, nearly 1,700 communities have received funding through Title V formula-based allocations to the states.

Quarterly Newsletter Examines Geography of Crime

The Mapping and Analysis for Public Safety (MAPS) program at the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), in conjunction with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), is now publishing a quarterly bulletin, *Geography and Public Safety*, which focuses on issues pertaining to the geography of crime. The bulletin is geared toward practitioners in law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, and features articles on mapping, problem analysis, and other issues pertaining to the geography of crime. *Geography and Public Safety* is available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/maps/bulletin.htm>.

NIJ Journal Examines “CSI Effect” on Juries

The latest issue of the *NIJ Journal, Issue No. 259*, (NCJ 221500, 44 pp.) features a lead article that discusses how crime scene investigation television programs affect juror decision-making during trials. Additional articles explore results of two voice-stress analysis programs, software-defined radio systems, prison rape prevalence and prevention research, and reasons why two evaluations of the same prisons yielded different results.

Conferences and Training

White House Conferences on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

The White House is hosting a new series of regional conferences on the President’s Faith-Based and Community Initiative in partnership with states across the country. These events are designed to connect effective social service organizations with resources that can strengthen and expand the services they offer. Special emphasis will be placed on opportunities for partnership at the state and local level. These opportunities include funding provided through grants and contracts, non-financial partnerships such as mutual-referral relationships with local government agencies, and government services that can supplement the aid nonprofits provide to their clients.

The conferences are scheduled as follows:

- May 29-30, in New Orleans, LA
- June 26-27, in Washington, DC
- August 5, in Sacramento, CA
- August 29, in Dallas, TX.

For more information, go to <http://www.dtiassociates.com/fbci/index.cfm>.

OJJDP to Hold Youth Gang Symposium

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) will hold its Youth Gang Symposium in Atlanta, Georgia, on June 23-26, 2008. Addressing the theme, *Partnering to Prevent Youth Gang Violence: From Faith- and Community-Based Organizations to Law Enforcement*, the symposium will offer innovative gang-related strategies and the latest information on youth gang activities. For more information, go to <http://www.gangsymposium.org/>.

Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program to Hold Training Conference

The Bureau of Justice Assistance will host the G.R.E.A.T. National Training Conference on July 16-18, 2008, in St. Louis, Missouri. Goals of the G.R.E.A.T. program include preventing youth crime, violence, and gang involvement; developing positive relationships with youth; and improving the delivery of the middle and elementary school curriculum, summer programs, and the G.R.E.A.T. Families program. The conference will offer a variety of workshops to address the needs of G.R.E.A.T. officers, school and government personnel, and those interested in establishing a G.R.E.A.T. Program in their communities. For information or to register, go to <http://www.great-online.org/Conference2008/Default.aspx>.

National Institute of Justice Annual Conference

The [National Institute of Justice](#) (NIJ) will hold its [annual conference](#) in Arlington, VA, on July 21–23. The 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. This year's conference will include eight crime mapping panels and multiple juvenile-related topics, including commercial sexual exploitation of children, school-based prevention programs, bullying, and a youth gang research and best practices panel organized by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. For more information on the conference, and to sign up to receive conference updates, go to http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/events/nij_conference/welcome.htm

Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Conference

The 9th [National Conference on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention](#) will be held in New Orleans, LA, on August 26–28. A reduced rate is available for registrations before July 26. The conference is sponsored by the National Children's Advocacy Center

Training for Victim Service Providers Available

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) offers a series of workshops twice a year through its Training Schedule for Victim Service Providers. Registrations are now being accepted for six Fall/Winter 2008 workshops, with the first of the series, Compassion Fatigue/Vicarious Trauma, being held on August 19–20 in Spokane, WA. To view course descriptions and learning objectives or to register, visit the [OVC TTAC Web site](#).

Resources

New DVD Addresses Human Trafficking Victim Assistance

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) provides videos and other resources designed to inform and assist victim service providers and allied professionals in their efforts to respond to crime victims. The most recent addition to its list of resources is *Responding to Victims of Human Trafficking: A Training Video for Victim Service Providers*. This 20-minute DVD addresses the need for the victim services field to work in partnership with those who provide services to immigrants and with other allied practitioners to better serve victims of human trafficking. It was designed to help traditional victim service providers expand their skills and resources to meet the needs of trafficking victims. The DVD also contains a guide to information about what defines human trafficking and the response to this crime by the U.S. Government, the international community, and nongovernmental entities. To see a list of OVC resources, or to view a clip from the DVD, go to <http://www.ovc.gov/publications/infores/other.htm#humantrafficking>.

Announcements

Jeffrey Sedgwick To Be Nominated for Assistant Attorney General

President Bush has announced his intention to nominate Jeffrey L. Sedgwick to be Assistant Attorney General (Office of Justice Programs) at the Department of Justice. Dr. Sedgwick currently serves as Acting Assistant Attorney General (Office of Justice Programs) and Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics at the Department of Justice. Prior to this, he served as an Associate Professor at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst. Dr. Sedgwick received his bachelor's degree from Kenyon College. He received his master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.

Public Service Campaign Fights Methamphetamine

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) has partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs, Partnership for a Drug-Free America, and the National Congress of American Indians to launch the *American Indian Anti-Meth Campaign*, the first anti-meth public service campaign targeted at American Indian and Native Alaskan populations. The campaign's print and radio ads are available as free public service announcements (PSAs). For more information, go to <http://www.methresources.gov/nativeamerican/>.