

# JRSA Electronic News

## A monthly briefing for members

March 2008

### SAC News

#### **New SAC Directors Take over in Massachusetts and New York**

**Keith O'Brien** is the new director of the Massachusetts SAC. He manages the Research and Policy Analysis Division of the Office of Grants and Research, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). This division conducts evaluations of grant-funded programs, provides analytical support on a variety of topics to the Secretary of Public Safety, and manages many public safety and criminal justice data sources in Massachusetts. Mr. O'Brien has been at EOPSS since 2005 and has focused on evaluating grant-funded programs, providing research support to the executive staff, and overseeing the research component of the Charles E. Shannon, Jr. Community Safety Initiative – a gang and youth violence prevention and intervention program. He also has authored reports on several process evaluations of EOPSS grantees. Prior to joining the EOPSS, Mr. O'Brien worked as a Program Officer at the Toshiba America Foundation where he oversaw hundreds of grants made to schools and non-profits and assisted in the management of the Foundation. He holds a master's degree in public administration from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, a master's in education from the Graduate School of Education at Fordham University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Binghamton University, State University of New York.

New York's new SAC director is **Theresa Salo**, whose official state title is Deputy Commissioner, Office of Justice Research and Performance, New York Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). She joined DCJS in 2003 to establish a performance management program for the New York State criminal justice system, and assumed responsibility for the Bureau of Research in 2007. Ms. Salo was awarded the 2007 Alfred E. Smith Award from the American Society of Public Administration in recognition of outstanding individual service, initiative, and superior management within New York State. Prior to joining DCJS, she served as the Director of Policy Analysis at the Division of Parole for 10 years. She also spent 9 years at the Division of Budget with oversight responsibility for numerous criminal justice agencies. Ms. Salo holds a master's degree in public administration from the State University of New York at Albany. Margaret Chretien will continue to serve as SAC Coordinator.

#### **Colorado Report Cited in Wall Street Journal**

Colorado SAC Director **Kim English** was quoted in a March 22<sup>nd</sup> *Wall Street Journal* article, "The Polygraph Paradox." The focus of the article is on the use of polygraphy as "a centerpiece in an expanding range of parole and probation programs that are designed to dissuade sex offenders and other felons from committing more crimes." The article cited a study conducted by the Colorado SAC in 2000, which determined that sex offenders confessed to more crimes, and a wider variety of offenses, under polygraph than they otherwise would have. The article is available at [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120612863077155601.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120612863077155601.html?mod=googlenews_wsj).

### Publications

#### **Framework for Paroling Authorities Available**

The National Institute of Corrections (NIC) released *Comprehensive Framework for Paroling Authorities in an Era of Evidence-Based Practice*, which is designed to help paroling authorities understand the

requirements of effective evidence-based decisionmaking and practices so they can better understand and articulate their agency needs to funders, regulatory agencies, and other corrections system players. It focuses on procedures relative to how and when to make the release decision and why and when to revoke a release, and is meant to provide a plan “that paroling authorities need to lead them to a desired future of well-trained board members, using evidence-based practices within agencies that have sufficient staff and other resources to effectively support the release and, when necessary, revocation of offenders.” The report is available at <http://nicic.org/Downloads/PDF/Library/022906.pdf>.

### **New Community Policing Newsletter Issue Released**

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) has launched Community Policing Dispatch, a monthly electronic newsletter. This forum educates readers about criminal justice issues affecting the implementation of community policing. The March issue, which is available at [http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/March\\_2008/index.html](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/March_2008/index.html), features articles about use of force, the rising trend of unsolved homicides, and homeland security training opportunities.

## **Conferences and Trainings**

### **Training on Evaluating Truancy Reduction Programs Offered**

The National Center for School Engagement will conduct the training course *Evaluating Your Truancy Reduction Program*, on April 28-29, in Denver, Colorado. Designed for persons responsible for school, court, and community-based truancy reduction programs, this interactive course is drawn from practical training experience, lessons learned about truancy reduction, and expertise in research and evaluation. The registration deadline is Wednesday, April 23. For more information about the training, go to <http://www.coloradofoundation.org/truancyevent.asp>. For more information on the National Center for School Engagement, go to <http://www.truancyprevention.org/>.

### **OVC Sponsors Victim Assistance Training**

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is presenting the *2008 National Victim Assistance Academy* (NVAA), one of the most important training events available to victim service providers, May 4-9, at the Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center in St. Louis, Missouri. The NVAA, which is comprised of education and skill-based classroom trainings for those who assist victims and survivors of crime, and includes three distinct tracks tailored to the needs of each participant. All three tracks will be offered during the week-long 2008 Academy:

- Track 1, Foundation-level training provides entry-level professionals and volunteers with knowledge, skills, and resources to serve victims and survivors of crime more effectively. The training, which lasts 4 days, lays the groundwork for building a career in the victim services field.
- Track 2, Specialized Training focuses on timely, specific topics that have a direct impact on provider’s work. The specialized training courses, such as elder abuse and ethics, are for those who have been in the victim services field for at least 2 years. The length of each training course ranges from 1 to 3 days.
- Track 3, Leadership Institute helps administrators and leaders build and refine the necessary skills to effectively manage their programs. The courses are specifically designed to help victim service administrators and leaders develop and refine their skills and abilities to manage and sustain their victim service programs. Track 3 is 5 days.

For more information about the National Victim Assistance Academy, go to <https://www.ovcttac.gov/nvaa2008/>.

**OJJDP to hold Youth Gang Symposium**

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) will hold its *National Youth Gang Symposium* in Atlanta, Georgia on June 23–26. Under the theme "Partnering to Prevent Gang Violence: From Faith-Based and Community Organizations to Law Enforcement," the symposium will feature workshops designed to enhance efforts by law enforcement and school personnel, faith-based and community organizations, policymakers, youth services agencies, and others working to combat youth gang problems. To receive the early registration rate, register by April 30. For more information and register online, go to <http://www.gangsymposium.org> or call OJJDP's National Youth Gang Center at 850-385-0600, extension 270.

**Building Bridges to a G.R.E.A.T. Future**

The Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program is holding its 2008 National Training Conference July 16-18 in St. Louis, Missouri. This instructional event 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. The conference will hold workshops on Interacting with the media, establishing and managing the G.R.E.A.T. Program, community outreach and partnering, effectively implementing the middle school and elementary school curricula, bullying behaviors, leadership and character development, understanding how youth use the Internet and other media, understanding and managing youth with special needs, and multistrategy models to address gangs. Go to <http://www.great-online.org/Conference2008/Default.aspx> for more information.

**NIJ National Research and Evaluation Conference Registration Open**

The National Institute of Justice will hold its National Conference July 21-23 in Arlington, Virginia. This conference will feature panels on a diverse array of topics, including the efficacy of restraining orders, commercial sexual exploitation of children, CompStat and community policing, and parolee supervision strategies that result in successful outcomes. For more information on the agenda, panel descriptions, who should attend, and how to register, go to [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/events/nij\\_conference/welcome.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/events/nij_conference/welcome.htm), or contact Maria Young, Palladian Partners, Inc. at (301) 650-8660, ext. 136 or [myoung@palladianpartners.com](mailto:myoung@palladianpartners.com).

**Announcement****NIC Has New Blog for JJ Professionals**

The [National Institute of Corrections](http://www.nicic.org) (NIC) has established a blog to facilitate the exchange of information among juvenile justice professionals. *Juvenile Justice Connection* will feature news from NIC, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and other federal, state, and local sources, including information about professional training opportunities and juvenile justice-related research. Visit Juvenile Justice Connection at <http://community.nicic.org/blogs/juvenilejustice/default.aspx>.