

JRSA Electronic News

A monthly briefing for members

May 2008

SAC News

The Montana SAC has a new director. **Jimmy Steyee** has been with the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC), where the SAC is housed, since June 2007. Before that he performed research work in the private sector. Mr. Steyee works with Montana Incident-Based Reporting System (MTIBRS) data collection, Tribal Crime Data collection, and Jail Data collection projects, and is a member of the State Epidemiological Workgroup. He also published *Crime in Montana 2005-2006* and is working on *Crime in Montana 2006-2007* (forthcoming). He is a graduate of Montana State University, where he earned a degree in criminal justice.

Publications

The Massachusetts Department of Correction (MDOC) announced the publication of two reports produced from the Massachusetts Prisoner Recidivism Study, a collaboration between the MDOC and the Urban Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan policy research and educational organization based in Washington, DC. The study examines factors contributing to recidivism, with three interrelated study components: an analysis of MDOC administrative data and recidivism, parole officer focus groups, and interviews of recidivists as they return to prison. The first report, *Massachusetts Recidivism Study: A Closer Look at Releases and Returns to Prison*, provides the findings of the first component while the companion report, *Reincarcerated: The Experiences of Men Returning to Massachusetts Prisons*, provides results from the focus groups and survey of recidivists. Each report is available on both the Web sites of the Urban Institute <http://www.urban.org/justice/index.cfm?page=2> and MDOC

http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eopsterminal&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Law+Enforcement+%26+Criminal+Justice&L2=Prisons&L3=Research+Data&sid=Eeops&b=terminalcontent&f=doc_research_and_planning_urban_institute_research_reports&csid=Eeops .

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has published *You're Not Alone: The Journey From Abduction to Empowerment*, which presents the stories of child abduction survivors and how they have grown and dealt with their traumatic experiences. This guide provides information to help other child abduction survivors cope with their own experiences and begin their journeys towards a better future. Additionally, it contains space where readers can write down their own thoughts and feelings in response to each personal story. It joins two previous OJJDP publications, *When Your Child Is Missing: A Family Survival Guide* and *What About Me? Coping with the Abduction of a Brother or Sister*, in a series that assists families coping with abduction. To view or download the guide, go to <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/Index.html>. Print copes may be ordered at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/app/publications/alphaList.aspx>.

Youth Courts: An Empirical Update and Analysis of Future Organizational and Research Needs is the third in a series of OJJDP-sponsored reports on youth courts in the United States, and looks at questions concerning their operation, the extent of volunteer activity, how they function as they mature, and the resources they employ. It is based on a national survey of youth courts that focused on program outcomes, administration, and operation. The results will provide guidance on how to build and sustain an organizational structure that allows youth courts to successfully fulfill their mission of preventing young offenders from repeating antisocial behaviors, while relying on volunteers and even ex-offenders to be a part of the process. The report is available at <http://gwired.gwu.edu/hamfish/Publications/Serial>.

According to a report issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), past year substance abuse for youth living in households with a single parent was greater than for youth living with two parents. The report *Parent Awareness of Youth Use of Cigarettes, Alcohol, and Marijuana*, which draws on data from the *National Survey on Drug Use and Health*, also noted that fathers in two-parent households were more likely than fathers in father-only households to be aware of their child's substance abuse over the past year. Also, within one-parent households, substance abuse for youth was generally higher in father-only households than in mother-only households. For a copy of the report, go to <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k8/parents/parents.cfm>. For more information from the *National Survey on Drug Use and Health*, go to <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh.htm>.

Conferences and Training

Correctional Mental Health Focus of NCCHC Seminar

The National Commission on Correctional Health Care is hosting its Correctional Mental Health seminar July 13-14 in Las Vegas, Nevada. This program will address many of the major mental health care issues that challenge facilities, along with some important elements that tend to get less attention. Speakers will provide strategies for providing quality care along the continuum and smoothing reentry to the community. Attendees will leave equipped to implement these strategies and improve mental health services delivery at their facilities. For more information, go to <http://www.ncchc.org/education/mental/index.html>.

Specialized Training Available for Victim Service Providers

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), through its Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC), offers workshops for service providers. The next three workshops are

- *Compassion Fatigue/Vicarious Trauma*, August 19-20 in Spokane, WA
- *Providing Culturally Competent Services to Victims of Crime*, September 16-18 in Lincoln, NE, and
- *Identity Theft: Supporting Victims' Financial and Emotional Recovery*, October 8-9 in Reno, NE.

To view course descriptions and learning objectives or to register, visit the OVC TTAC Web site at <http://www.sei2003.com/ovcttac2008/index.htm>.

Announcements

Call for Medal of Valor Nominations

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is accepting nominations beginning for the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor, the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer. The medal is awarded by the President to public safety officers cited by the Attorney General who have exhibited exceptional courage in protecting or saving lives. Nominations must be made by Thursday, July 31, for "Acts of Valor performed from June 1, 2007 to May 31, 2008 by public safety officers nominated by the chief executive of their employing agencies." The online form and additional information about the Medal of Valor are available on the Medal of Valor website at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/medalofvalor.

Justice Professionals Sought to Review Byrne Grant Applications

Experts in crime and drug abuse prevention, law enforcement, courts, corrections, reentry, and justice information sharing are needed to review Edward Byrne Memorial Discretionary Grants Program applications. Interested individuals can submit their resumes to Byrne.Discretionary@usdoj.gov.

Online Tool Provides Victims' Rights Law Information

VictimLaw is an online database containing more than 15,000 victims' rights statutes (federal and state), tribal laws, constitutional amendments, court rules, and administrative code provisions. This resource, developed by the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC) with OVC funding, also offers brief victims' rights and

justice system overviews and case summaries. *VictimLaw* is available from the NCVC Web site or at <http://www.victimlaw.info/victimlaw/>.

Center for Court Innovations Uses Internet Technology to Discuss Reform

The Center for Court Innovation (CCI) announces two new ways to stimulate discussion about reform of the justice system. The first is *New Thinking*, a podcast that profiles innovative reform projects and creative practitioners and academics from across the country and around the world. The second is through YouTube, where a channel has been devoted to broadcasting highlights from CCI demonstration projects, training sessions and public events. To hear *New Thinking*, visit <http://www.courtinnovation.org/podcast.html> for the latest podcasts or, if you have iTunes, subscribe at <http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=275221709>. To access YouTube, go to <http://www.youtube.com/Courtinnovation>. Feedback about the podcasts or YouTube channel can be directed to CCI Director Greg Berman at bermang@courtinnovation.org.