

JRSA Electronic News

A monthly briefing for members

October 2007

JRSA 2007 National Conference News

New Executive Board Is Elected. Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) Directors elected officers to the 2007-2008 JRSA Executive Committee at their annual business meeting on October 10. The officers are **Sue Burton** (FL), President; **Jackie Vandercook** (TN), Vice President; **Phillip Stevenson** (AZ), Secretary/Treasurer; **Becki Goggins** (AL) and **Stephen Haas** (WV), Delegates; and **Doug Yearwood** (NC), Past President. **Richard Kern**, Director of the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission, was appointed by Ms. Burton to represent non-SAC members.

Statistical Analysis Center Awards. SACs in **Colorado**, **New Mexico**, and **Oregon** were awarded JRSA's Phillip Hoke Award for Excellence in Analysis. Awards are given in two categories: Statistical/Management and Research/Policy Analysis. In the Statistical/Management category, Colorado won in the large SAC division for *Crime and Justice in Colorado: 2006*, and New Mexico won in the small SAC division for *Travel to Violence: Final Report*. In the Research/Policy Analysis category, Colorado was the winner of the large SAC division for *Crisis Intervention Teams: A Community-Based Initiative*, and Oregon won in the small SAC division for *Incarceration, Costs, and Crime*.

The **Florida** and **Colorado** SACs were awarded the 2007 SAC Web Site award, which recognizes the Internet Web site or home page of a SAC that "exhibits excellence in the use of the Internet for information dissemination."

The G. Paul Sylvestre Award was presented to **Carmen Dorsey**, Director of the Maine SAC. This prestigious award is presented annually by the Bureau of Justice Statistics to a SAC director who has demonstrated outstanding achievement over an extended period of time.

More information on the conference will be in the December issue of The JRSA Forum. For information on conference presentations, go to <http://www.jrsa.org/events/conference/index.html> and click on "Speaker Presentations."

Publications

The Bureau of Justice Statistics released a special report, *Arrest-Related Deaths in the United States, 2003-2005* (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ardus05.htm>), which presents the first findings from the law enforcement collection of the Deaths in Custody Reporting Program (DCRP), the largest resource of information ever collected on arrest-related deaths. It provides counts of all arrest-related deaths reported by state authorities in over 40 states over a three-year period (2003-2005), by cause of death and characteristics of the deceased.

The National Institute of Justice released *Pretrial Innovations for Domestic Violence Offenders and Victims: Lessons From the Judicial Oversight Demonstration Initiative* (NCJ 216041, 16 pp.). Domestic violence cases involving intimate partners pose challenges for the criminal justice system as the cases move from arrest to adjudication to sentencing. The lengthy time period after arrest but before case disposition (either by plea, trial verdict, or dismissal) puts domestic violence victims at high risk. This report discusses how pretrial innovations for domestic violence cases were implemented in three demonstration sites as part of the Judicial Oversight

Demonstration project. The report describes the pretrial strategies used, key aspects of their implementation, and lessons learned for other jurisdictions that are considering similar innovations. To view this report in PDF, go to <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/216041.pdf>.

The Council of State Governments Justice Center and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) announce the release of *Repaying Debts* (60 pp.), which describes the financial obligations of people released from prisons and jails and includes recommendations to help policymakers increase accountability among those who commit crimes and improve rates of child support collection and victim restitution. The publication is available at http://justicecenter.csg.org/files/RepayingDebts_Guide_final.pdf.

Easy Access to State and County Juvenile Court Case Counts (EZACO) is an online resource that provides access to state and county juvenile court case counts for delinquency, status offense, and dependency cases. Maintained by the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) and sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), EZACO has been updated with data through 2004. Available through OJJDP's *Statistical Briefing Book* (<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/index.html>), it can also be accessed at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/ezaco/default.asp>. The *Statistical Briefing Book* also includes the *Juvenile Court Statistics Databook*, which describes the more than 30 million delinquency cases processed by juvenile courts between 1985 and 2004. The databook, which can be found at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/jcsdb/>, enables users to review demographic characteristics of youth involved in the juvenile justice system and how juvenile courts process these cases.

Conferences and Trainings

On November 27–30, in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), in collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native Affairs, will hold a **Government to Government Consultation, Training, and Technical Assistance Conference**. This session is designed to address increased access to resources, crime and health prevention strategies, interdiction and intervention strategies, and detention and treatment needs, for community-based solutions and inter-jurisdictional cooperation. Topics will include funding opportunities, sexual assault, detention facilities, methamphetamine training, suicide prevention, interoperability, and the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, among others. A **National Tribal Symposium on Sex Offender Management and Accountability** will also be included. For more information on the conference and to register online, go to <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=0a905231-52a2-4fe6-8248-f68939089b59>.

Questions should be addressed to Kristen Lichtenwalner at klichtenwalner@firstpic.org or, toll free, at 866-662-5321.

The **Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)** is offering a training workshop on **program evaluation** as a tool to determine whether or not basic programs are achieving their stated goals and objectives. This user-friendly, interactive training provides victim service agencies the information, skills, and tools needed to participate in the planning and implementation of the ongoing evaluation of their programs and services. Key topics include selecting the appropriate type of program evaluation to meet your needs; developing logic models that identify data sources, measures, and program outcomes; conducting basic analysis of your evaluation data; and using evaluation results to monitor progress, make midcourse changes, and document program success. This workshop will be held in Birmingham, Alabama, on December 4–5. The cost is \$200. For more information, go to <http://www.sei2003.com/ovcttac/evaluation.htm>.

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges will hold the **National Youth Court Conference** December 9-12 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The conference is designed to assist communities in developing, implementing, and enhancing effective youth court programs, sharing three fundamental principles: (1) holding youth accountable for delinquent and problem behavior; (2) educating youth about the legal and judicial

systems; and (3) empowering youth to help their communities solve problems. Register at <http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/1027/315/1/4/> by November 16 to benefit from the early payment discount. For more information, go to <http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/1027/315/>.

OVC's **2007 National Victim Assistance Academy (NVAA)** will be held December 9-14, in the Baltimore, Maryland, metropolitan area. The NVAA consists of education and skill-based classroom trainings for those who assist victims and survivors of crime. Training includes three distinct tracks tailored to the needs of each participant: (1) Foundation-Level Training, (2) Specialized Training, and (3) Leadership Institute (this track is full). For more information and to apply online for the 2007 Academy, go to <https://www.ovcttac.org/nvaa2007/index.cfm>.