



# Criminal Justice Bulletin

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karhlton F. Moore, Executive Director  
[www.ocjs.ohio.gov](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov)



VOL. 9, ISSUE 24

[WWW.OCJS.OHIO.GOV](http://WWW.OCJS.OHIO.GOV)

NOVEMBER 16, 2012

A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES  
A DIVISION OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



## NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**BJA Launches New NTTAC Website:** The BJA National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC) website is now live. The site offers tools and resources to assist in the delivery of effective training and technical assistance. Visit the new site at <http://www.bjatraining.org>.

**NCJA Survey Looks at SAAs' Role in Grants Oversight:** In September and October of 2012, NCJA conducted a survey of SAAs to gather details about their role in grant oversight and accountability, particularly the subgrants SAAs award to units of local government under the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program. As Congress prepares to reauthorize the Byrne JAG program, it is important to be able to describe with specificity the methods SAAs use to ensure that the federal funds they administer are used wisely, are well-managed, adhere to all federal and state regulations and guidelines, and are measured for performance and outcomes. The survey gathered basic information about the number of grants monitored annually, the method and frequency of oversight, the resources needed to perform this function, and the training and technical assistance SAAs provide to their subgrantees.

The findings demonstrate that respondents use a range of methods and tools to track and monitor the distribution and use of funds, including desk reviews, site visits, financial reviews, surveys, programmatic monitoring, and performance measurement and reporting. Nearly half also reported using risk-based grant monitoring which uses a risk assessment tool to determine the frequency and nature of monitoring.

The survey found that SAAs monitor most grants monthly, semi-annually or annually on a pre-determined schedule, which may be based on the size of the award and the subgrantee's past history of sound grants management, or upon closure of the grant. Nearly all SAAs (94 percent) provide training to their subgrantees on the sound management of federal funds and programmatic issues either on-site, online and/or in-person.

Training is available throughout the life cycle of the grant, in the solicitation stage, immediately upon award of the grant, or within the first few months of the award. Many agencies reported also having training materials available online which subgrantees can access at any time.

Source: NCJA

**New Coalition Forms to Address Contraband Cell Phones in Prisons:** NCJA is participating in a new coalition, led by the American Correctional Association, which has formed to find legislative and regulatory responses to the problem of illicit cell phones in prisons and jails. The coalition includes associations representing law enforcement, state and local governments, victim services providers, wireless communications companies, and cell phone providers.

Correctional authorities say that contraband cell phone use in prisons has become a crisis. Prisoners use cell phones to conduct gang activity and drug deals, commit fraud, track the location of prison guards, and intimidate witnesses. Correctional officers seize thousands of contraband cell phones annually.

In response to the growing problem, correctional agencies have deployed more advanced electronic detection methods to scan inmates, visitors, and prison guard and to detect the cell phones inside the facility. Also, many states have had success with specially trained dogs. "Jamming," which disrupts the connection between the phone and cell tower, also has been tested but is currently against federal telecommunications law. Other protocols, such as "shielding" the transmission of cell phone calls, are under review. Experts admit that no single solution will solve the problem because cell phones have become ubiquitous, and the protocols and technologies that might work in one location may be impractical in another (for instance, jamming in a dense urban center.)

The new coalition named No Cells in Cells will seek to find common ground between the regulators and the regulated, and to share information on what works to stop the

proliferation of cell phones in prisons. The group will develop and seek legislative solutions and seek regulatory relief to test new approaches.

Source: NCJA

**SAAs Use of Risk-Based Grant Monitoring:** In addition to their policy and planning responsibilities State Agency Administrators (SAAs) are often best known for their grant making and management functions. With 75 percent of SAAs administering at least four U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) state formula grant programs, SAAs are monitoring awards across all elements of the justice system at all levels of state and local government. According to a recent NCJA survey, on average SAAs had at least 30 open JAG equipment grants and an average of at least 172 programmatic grants.

With 70 percent of SAAs having between one and four full time Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) programmatic and financial grant managers, it can be a challenge to determine how to effectively deploy limited monitoring resources. As grant managers regularly monitor grant progress indicators, financial reports, state performance measures and information submitted to the Federal Performance Measurement Tool, it is easy to understand why monitoring man power is limited. In an effort to enhance the SAAs monitoring capacities and to deploy limited SAA resources toward those segments of their grant portfolios most at risk of not meeting agreed upon goals, many states have begun to implement risk-based grant monitoring strategies. In its simplest form, risk-based monitoring strategies are comprised of a set of monitoring activities that are prioritized and implemented using a risk assessment. Grantees most at risk of not meeting agreed upon goals receive additional monitoring, training and technical assistance. By targeting resources toward those most in need of assistance, SAAs not only act in a cost effective fashion but ensure that the state's investment is protected.

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## TRAINING/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CON'T.

**Ohio Attorney General's Two Days in May Conference:** The Ohio Attorney General's Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance is scheduled for May 14 and 15, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. This two-day educational event brings together close to 1000 victim advocates, law enforcement, mental health providers and other criminal justice professionals who work with victims across the state. This year's conference theme is *Empowering Ohio's Most Vulnerable*. Certain vulnerable populations are at a significant risk of being victimized. This conference will focus on the individual needs of these victims, and encourage attendees to ensure they are afforded access to quality, comprehensive services.

Workshop proposals relevant to the conference theme are being accepted between now and December 31, 2012. Suggested conference training topics can include, but are not limited to, assisting victims of bullying, individuals with disabilities, at risk youth, older Ohioans, male sexual assault victims, and marginalized communities. The link to the workshop proposal form is included below. Presenters will be notified of final acceptance of workshops on or before February 1, 2013. Contact Venica Miller at 614/644-1234 with questions.

Workshop Proposal Form: <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/TDIM>.

## GRANT FUNDING

**Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Funding (RSAT) Request for Proposal:** RSAT funds assist state and local governments to develop and implement substance abuse treatment programs in state and local correctional and detention facilities. OCJS recommends applicants target high-risk offenders as program participants. The funds may be used to support treatment services in addition to the services the prison or jail is already required to provide. A minimum of 10 percent of Ohio's RSAT allocation must be available for local correctional and detention facilities for either of the two following program areas:

### Residential Substance Abuse Treatment

- Six to 12 months in duration;
- Residential correctional or detention facility;
- Residents set apart from the general correctional population;
- Focus on substance abuse problems of inmates;
- Utilize urinalysis or other proven reliable forms of testing conducted;
- Substantially focus on the substance abuse

**Police Offering Positive Opportunities (P.O.P.O.):** P.O.P.O. is an opportunity for police to mentor youth in juvenile correctional facilities and ensure that they never repeat their mistakes. You can make a difference by building a meaningful and positive relationship with youth while they are in the facility and on parole. By engaging social workers, parole officers, and families, you can give youth the full support they need to succeed. To help the youth in your community, create a P.O.P.O. mentoring team of 1-7 officers and see the impact you can have.

The target counties for the P.O.P.O. program are: Allen, Butler, Clark, Delaware, Licking, Lorain, Marion, Medina, Miami, Shelby, Stark, Tuscarawas, Washington and Wayne counties

To sign your team up, contact Kim Humphrey at [kim.humphrey@dys.ohio.gov](mailto:kim.humphrey@dys.ohio.gov) or 614-644-5179.

**Addressing Crime in Virtual Worlds and Online Gaming Worlds:** This course instructs law enforcement, probation, and parole personnel in identifying, investigating, and preventing crimes involving virtual worlds and online gaming environments. Topics include types of crime, sources of evidence, investigation tools and techniques, legal considerations, and

the economies and communication tools used in virtual and online gaming worlds. It also covers techniques for seizing popular console and portable gaming hardware.

**Note:** Students must bring a laptop with Wi-Fi capability. Per BJA Guidelines, no food or beverages will be provided at this training. Lunch will be on your own. The individual or his/her agency will be responsible for all travel, lodging and incidental costs incurred to attend this training session.

When: December 5

Where: Richfield Campus, 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, OH 44286, (330) 659-2311

Cost: Free

Click [here](#) to register.

Please fax or e-mail the completed form to (740) 845-0362 or [opoteregistration@ohioattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:opoteregistration@ohioattorneygeneral.gov)

- problems of the inmate;
- Develop cognitive, behavioral, social, vocational, and other skills necessary to solve a substance abuse or related problem.

### Jail-Based Substance Abuse Treatment

- Program must last at least three months;
- Treatment population set apart from general correctional population if at all possible;
- Focus on substance abuse problems of inmates;
- Science-based.

### Eligibility

All RSAT applicants must have an organization, or subgrantee, that will serve as the fiduciary agent and assume overall responsibility for the grant. Eligible RSAT subgrantees include:

1. A unit of local government or council of governments. A unit of local government has legislative autonomy, jurisdiction, and authority to act in certain circumstances. Units of government include a city, county, township, or village. If two or more

organizations jointly apply, they must designate one body to take the lead role and identify that agency's fiscal officer.

2. State agencies, state-supported universities.

### Format and Submission

**Applications are submitted online through the OCJS Grants Management System, by 5 p.m. on November 30, 2012.** Visit: [www.ocjsgrants.com](http://www.ocjsgrants.com). Late applications will not be reviewed or considered for funding. Failure to follow the specified requirements will also result in the application not being reviewed or considered for funding.

**IMPORTANT:** Applications must be in the APPLICATION SUBMITTED STATUS in the OCJS Grants Management System to be considered for funding.

Click [here](#) for additional information.

## GRANT FUNDING

**Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Grant Program:** The purpose of the federal FVPSA Program is to prevent incidents of family violence, and to provide immediate shelter and related assistance for family violence victims and their dependents.

### Federal Definitions

- **Family Violence:** Any act or threatened act of violence, including any forcible detention of an individual, which (a) results or threatens to result in physical injury and (b) is committed by a person against another individual (including an elderly person) to whom such person is or was related by blood or marriage or is otherwise legally related, or with whom such person is or was lawfully residing.
- **Shelter:** The provision of temporary refuge and related assistance in compliance with applicable state law and regulation governing the provision, on a regular basis, which includes shelter, safe homes, meals and related assistance to victims of family violence and their dependents.
- **Related Assistance:** The provision of direct assistance to victims of family violence and their dependents for the purpose of preventing further violence, helping such victims gain access to civil and criminal courts and other community services, facilitating the efforts of such victims to make decisions concerning their lives in the interest of safety, and assisting such victims in healing from the effects of the violence.

Projects may apply under one or both of the following program areas. **Agencies may submit only one application per agency**, and may apply for both program areas with one application.

### Core and Shelter Services

- **Crisis Hotline Management** (the operation of a 24-hour telephone service, 7 days a week, with trained staff providing counseling, guidance, emotional support, information and referrals, etc.) ;
- **Essential Support Staff**
- **Residential Staff** (staff that provide for the basic needs of victims in the shelters);
- **Case Management Staff** (staff that provide referrals, advocacy and crisis counseling);
- **Supervisory Staff** (24-hour management of the shelter and staff).

### Prevention and Related Assistance

- **Prevention services** such as outreach and prevention services for victims and their children, assistance for children who witness domestic violence, employment training, parenting and other educational services, preventive health services within domestic violence programs (including nutrition, disease prevention, exercise, and prevention of substance abuse), domestic violence prevention programs for school age children, family violence public awareness campaigns and

violence prevention counseling services to abusers;

- **Counseling** with respect to family violence, counseling or other supportive services by peers (individually or in groups), and referral to community social services;
- **Transportation and technical assistance** with respect to obtaining financial assistance under federal and state programs, and referrals for appropriate health-care services (including alcohol and drug abuse treatment), but not including reimbursement for any health-care services;
- **Legal advocacy** to provide victims with information and assistance through the civil and criminal courts and legal assistance; or
- **Children's counseling and support services**, and childcare services for children who are victims of family violence or the dependents of such victims, and children who witness domestic violence.

Note: This is a very detailed grant opportunity. Please visit <http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/solicitations.stm> for additional information, requirements and resources.

**PROPOSALS DUE BY NOV. 30**

## EVIDENCE RATING - EFFECTIVE: CHECKPOINT TENNESSEE

### Program Goals

In the early 1990s, nearly half of all traffic fatalities in Tennessee each year were alcohol-related. Checkpoint Tennessee was a year-long statewide sobriety checkpoint program intended to deter impaired driving and reduce alcohol-related crashes. It was a joint effort between the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the Governor's Highway Safety Office (GHSO), the Department of Safety, the Tennessee Highway Patrol, and the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The goal was to arrest impaired drivers at checkpoints to get them off the streets, and to spread the message of zero tolerance for drunk driving in Tennessee.

Many concerns over implementing sobriety checkpoints are about resources and cost, so another goal of Checkpoint Tennessee was to prove that it could be effective at reducing drunk-driving fatalities, while using existing personnel resources.

### Target Sites

Checkpoints were conducted on weekends in all 95 counties of Tennessee. There were approximately 900 checkpoints within the program year, compared to only about 15 in the preceding year.

### Program Components

The Checkpoint Tennessee program was in place from April 1, 1994, to March 31, 1995. The checkpoints were implemented by the Tennessee Highway Patrol in coordination with local law enforcement agencies. Three checkpoints were set up in at least four counties throughout the state every weekend. "Weekend blitzes" were conducted

on five weekends out of the year, with checkpoints conducted in all 95 counties of Tennessee. These took place on the first weekend of the program in April 1994; on the weekends of Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, and Labor Day; and at the end of the program, in March 1995.

At the checkpoints, all motorists were stopped to investigate for suspicion of impairment. If no evidence of impairment was found, they were given a pamphlet on driving under the influence and let go. If they were suspected of impairment, they were given further testing. Officers used several different types of equipment at checkpoints to detect driver impairment, including passive alcohol sensors in flashlights, video cameras, special lighting, cones, reflective vests, generators, signs, and floodlights. Passive alcohol sensors are flashlights with sensors to detect alcohol on the breath as the officer checks the eyes of the suspected drunken driver, and were an integral part of impairment testing at the checkpoints. All of these tools were used to gather evidence of impairment and determine probable cause to arrest impaired drivers. Standardized field sobriety tests were also used to detect impaired drivers.

Checkpoint Tennessee was heavily publicized in mass media outlets in the forms of TV, radio, and print public service announcements (PSAs), brochures, and billboards. Agreements were made with television stations to air the PSAs during primetime hours to maximize the impact of the message. Editorials were published in newspapers, discussing Checkpoint Tennessee and its goals. In addition, schedules for upcoming checkpoints were

published in newspapers to make their presence known to the community. Billboards and radio ads were used to spread the message to motorists while they were driving; the billboards were placed on widely traveled highways in the state. Brochures outlining both the details of the program and the state's drunk driving laws were distributed to the community, along with promotional materials, such as pens, pins, and cups.

### Key Personnel

The GHSO did research and planning for the program, while the Tennessee Highway Patrol executed the checkpoints with cooperation from local law enforcement agencies. The checkpoints were staffed using existing police resources; at least six troopers and a supervisor were required to staff each checkpoint.

### Program Theory

It was believed that since mass media outlets have such a strong influence on society, advertising the program through media outlets would increase awareness of the program and spread the message against impaired driving. The idea was that if the program was widely advertised, people will be deterred from driving while impaired.

Continue reading...

## RESEARCH, EVALUATION & STATISTICS

**Publication Discusses Police Leadership Challenges:** In July 2012, NIJ and the Harvard Kennedy School released *Police Leadership Challenges in a Changing World*. This is one in a series of papers that will be published as a result of Harvard's Executive Session on Policing and Public Safety (for more information on these Executive Sessions, click [here](#)). This paper examines the impact of the new generation of police officers and the existing technology that plays a role in their personal and professional lives and on existing police culture. The paper also examines whether this new generation of police officers presents a crisis for policing or an opportunity for change. Click [here](#) to view the paper.

**Crime in the United States 2011 Released:** Earlier this week, Crime in the

United States 2011 was released by the FBI. The annual report showed that violent crime in the U.S. decreased by 4.5% and property crime decreased by 1.3%. In Ohio, murders increased, while forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault decreased. Property crimes increased in Ohio, particularly burglaries and thefts. Motor vehicle thefts continued its downward trend. Motor vehicle thefts have decreased 51% since 2002. To access the full FBI report, click [here](#). To access a summary of Ohio's data, click [here](#).

**Report Discusses Evaluation of Prisoner Reentry Services:** This report presents the findings and methods of a secondary analysis of data collected for a large multisite evaluation of state and local reentry initiatives funded under the Serious and Violent Offender Reen-

try Initiative (SVORI). There were significant effects of SVORI program participation on arrests following release, with participation in SVORI programs associated with longer times to arrest and fewer arrests. Services oriented toward practical needs (reentry preparation, life skills, employment services) did not improve non-recidivism outcomes for men, and in some cases appeared to be detrimental. Services oriented toward individual change (substance abuse treatment, cognitive focused programs, education) may have modest beneficial effects on non-recidivism outcomes.

Click [here](#) for the full report, *Prisoner Reentry Services: What Worked for SVORI Evaluation Participants?*

## EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

**On Becoming an Evidence-Based Organization:** A large number of agencies have been collecting data for decades, but it hasn't been until recently that most criminal justice organizations and leaders have discovered the power of data for promoting improvements in the areas of prevention, policing, judicial processing, corrections, and even reentry. Much of the recent focus on data has been triggered by the myriad of federal legislation that emphasizes the use of data driven strategies that increase performance and improve overall criminal justice related results.

Recent advances in technology and the increased demand for assessing justice related outcomes has led many administrators to discover that the usefulness of data goes far beyond any reporting requirements. Today, forward-thinking agencies across the country are employing data-driven decision making techniques not only to address the public safety issues, but also to:

- Reduce net widening and provide more tailored justice responses;
- Improve justice professional training quality;

- Improve curriculum for justice professionals as well as offender programming;
- Share best practices among other justice organizations;
- Communicate justice issues more effectively with key stakeholders;
- Promote community involvement in the reentry process;
- Increase dialogue within the justice community.

For many organizations, implementation of data-driven decision making practices can be daunting. Not only are there a variety of technical challenges to overcome, but resource, financial and data quality issues as well. Getting started can be the toughest challenge of all.

However, an organization that utilizes data to drive decisions and develop innovative approaches to delivering services is well on its way to becoming an evidence-based organization (EBO). An EBO will be able to consistently demonstrate the ability to achieve outcomes through its use of evidence, effective problem solving and decision-making that corroborates those out-

comes through measurement and exhaustive communication. For criminal justice organizations, this strengthens public safety by reducing recidivism.

Part of becoming an EBO is ensuring that staff either have or acquire the skills necessary to implement evidence-based practices. However, it is often difficult to identify staff members' current skill level, what skills need to be enhanced, and what type of training is needed to assist staff. The Crime and Justice Institute has developed an Evidence-based Practice Skills Assessment (EBPSA), a self-report measurement tool designed to gauge the extent to which correctional staff demonstrate the skills necessary to successfully implement Evidence-based Practices (EBP). The EBPSA will help organizations identify the EBP knowledge, skill strengths, and needs of their staff, and to continue the learning process and enhance training, coaching, and feedback mechanisms. You may find this tool and more information regarding the process at the following link: <http://static.nicic.gov/Library/024397.pdf>.

### OCJS CONTACT

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