

March 2014

In the Spotlight

BJA's Visiting Fellows Program supports collaborations between BJA staff and criminal justice practitioners and researchers to develop strategies and tools to address gaps in priority and emerging issues. The centerpiece is a residency at BJA, where Fellows work onsite for 6-12 months. The goal of the fellowships is to make important policy and programmatic recommendations in a priority area of criminal justice practice. Fellows work in collaboration with BJA and Department of Justice staff to help provide critical outreach, data, research, and subject-matter expertise to inform the development of new BJA strategies and programs to benefit the field. BJA currently has four fellows in residence: Dr. Craig Uchida (law enforcement data and performance management); Kristine Hamann (prosecution leadership and integrity); Dr. Laura Wyckoff (crime analysis); and Tara Kunkel (prescription drug abuse).



BJA Fellows Dr. Laura Wyckoff, Tara Kunkill, and Craig Uchida (not pictured: Kristine Hamann)

In FY 2014, BJA has released a solicitation with opportunities for fellowships in the following five areas: Cybercrime (addressing crimes committed using electronic devices, the Internet, and secure networks); Evidence-Informed Policy and Practice (enhancing translation and meaningful integration of research knowledge by policymakers and practitioners); Tribal Justice (implementing priority goals set in consultation with tribal nations and new legislative authorities like the Tribal Law and Order Act); Place-Based, Community-Oriented Crime Prevention (enhancing crime prevention strategies, such as Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation); and Reforming Corrections Policies and Practices to Reduce Recidivism and Enhance Outcomes (enhance national efforts related to offender reentry, recidivism reduction, and/or the Prison Rape Elimination Act). Practitioners and researchers interested in a fellowship in these areas should review the [BJA Visiting Fellows Program announcement](#). Applications are due June 4, 2014.

News You Can Use

PREA Training Curricula

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Resource Center (PRC) has added a new page to its web site that houses [newly-released training curricula](#) developed by PRC partners. Beginning in 2012, PRC providers produced and facilitated multiple regional training events. Hundreds of people were able to attend one or more of these trainings, representing correctional agencies from across the country. To extend the value of the information shared during the regional training events, PRC providers have adapted the regional training materials to be accessed online for agency- and facility-level trainings.

Pretrial Justice Working Group Report Available

The Pretrial Justice Institute, with support from BJA, released [Implementing the Recommendations of the National Symposium on Pretrial Justice: The 2013 Progress Report](#). The report outlines the specific recommendations agreed to during the symposium and the previous year's progress toward adoption of these recommendations and offers guidance in the

DID YOU KNOW?

BJA Provides Assistance to the Criminal Justice Field on Maximizing the Opportunities of the Affordable Care Act

Nearly 7 million people involved in the criminal justice system have no or very poor health insurance coverage. With the expansion of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), resources are now available to extend health insurance to justice-involved populations. Through BJA funding, the Legal Action Center is helping the criminal justice field to maximize the opportunities of the ACA.

Read BJA's National Training and Technical Assistance Center's recent [TTA Spotlight](#) to learn more about the Legal Action Center's efforts to help the field leverage ACA opportunities for justice populations.

FEATURED PROGRAM

Idaho Sign Justice Reinvestment Legislation



On March 19, 2014, Idaho signed into law new "Justice Reinvestment" legislation to improve public

safety, reduce recidivism, and slow growth in Idaho's inmate population. The new law represents a consensus-based, data-driven approach to responsibly reducing corrections costs and reinvesting savings in strategies to increase public safety. The Council of State

following areas: Policy and Practice Enhancement, Stakeholder Groups, Department of Justice Programs, Legislators, Philanthropic Community, and the Academic Community.

BJA NTTAC's TTA Collaboration Portal Offers Exciting Features for BJA TTA Grantees

Last month, BJA NTTAC launched the TTA Collaboration Portal—a web-based system that facilitates collaboration among BJA staff and BJA's training and technical assistance (TTA) grantees. Some features include the ability to post comments and pose questions on a message board, upload documents, share best practices, and communicate information about upcoming meetings. BJA TTA grantees can also join interest groups to interact with other BJA staff and partners on similar criminal justice topics, access information on BJA NTTAC activities including newsletters, meeting notices, materials from BJA partner meetings, and information on requests for proposals. To learn more, read a recent [blog post](#).

FEMA Homeland Security Funding Available

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has preparedness grant funding available through its FY 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). Applications are due May 23, 2014. [Read more](#).

Grants & Funding

Before applying for BJA grant funds, please be sure to:

- Update your registration with the System for Award Management (SAM) at www.sam.gov.
- Register an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and acquire a Grants.gov username and password at www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp.

Current funding opportunities:

[Smart Supervision: Reducing Prison Populations, Saving Money, and Creating Safer Communities](#)

Closes April 7, 2014

[Smart Prosecution Initiative](#)

Closes April 22, 2014

[Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program](#)

Closes May 6, 2014

[Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring National Training and Technical Assistance Program](#)

Closes May 6, 2014

[Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program](#)

Closes May 6, 2014

In Focus This Month

BJA Convenes Criminal Justice Technology Forecasting Group

On March 6-7, 2014, BJA hosted the first meeting of the Criminal Justice Technology Forecasting Group (CJTFG). The CJTFG brings together a select group of criminal justice technology specialists with leaders in government, industry, and academia to identify and analyze emerging technology trends that will impact state, local, and tribal criminal justice agencies. During the meeting, CJTFG members and participants identified a number of emerging technology issues and potential ways to prepare for the future of policing. In addition, members heard from guest presenters: Mr. Kshemendra Paul, Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment (PM-ISE), spoke regarding the PM-ISE mission and efforts, and Ms. Beth Blauer, Director of Socrata GovStat, shared information regarding her involvement with Maryland's innovative performance management system, StateStat, and ongoing efforts to deliver the GovStat platform to federal, state, and local governments. Themes of the meeting included the rapid evolution of technology and the resulting policy and privacy protections, big data and data asset protection,



BJA Deputy Director Mahoney addresses the Focus Group (with NIJ's Steve Schuetz)

Governments (CSG) Justice Center serves as a technical assistance provider to Idaho, in partnership with The Pew Charitable Trusts and BJA.

"Idaho joins 18 other states in pursuing this data-driven justice reinvestment approach," said Denise E. O'Donnell, BJA Director. "By signing SB 1357 into law, Idaho is one step closer to achieving its goals of containing corrections costs while increasing public safety. We look forward to seeing the same collaboration, which served Idaho so well during phase one of justice reinvestment, as stakeholders work to implement these policy changes."

Read [CSG's press release](#) and [Idaho Governor Butch Otter's statement](#).

A [State Assessment Report](#) released by the Urban Institute in February 2014 found that JRI has successfully promoted interest in justice reform and the use of evidenced-based practices across the 17 states participating in the assessment. So far, a total of \$165.8 million has been reinvested: \$142.1 million in upfront investment, or funding based on projected savings, and \$23.7 million in reinvestment of tangible savings, or savings from avoided justice spending. Total projected savings amount to as much as \$4.6 billion over 11 years.



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technology performance management and metrics, and technology business practices. The CJTFG will further explore these issues at its next meeting in fall 2014.

Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program

Enacted in 1976, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program provides death, disability, and education benefits to those eligible for the program. For details regarding these federal benefits for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders killed or catastrophically disabled in the line of duty, call the PSOB Office toll-free at 888-744-6513 or 202-307-0635, or visit the PSOB [web site](#).



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