

If you have trouble viewing this email, please click [here](#) to view the online version.

BJA's Justice Today



BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE • OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

DENISE E. O'DONNELL, DIRECTOR

April 2016

In the Spotlight

BJA Fellows Speak at BJA All Staff Meeting

Four of the current BJA Fellows participated in a panel discussion at the most recent BJA All Staff Meeting, held on March 24 in Washington, DC.

Daryl Atkinson, Second Chance Fellow; Tara Kunkel, Prescription Drug Abuse Fellow; Derek Marsh, Human Trafficking Fellow; and Faye Taxman, Program Implementation Fellow, spoke to BJA staff about their respective fields and their visions for reform. Topics included key interventions for successful reentry, Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs, and the elements of an effective human trafficking prevention program.



BJA launched the [Visiting Fellows Program](#) in FY 2012 to leverage state, local, and tribal subject matter expertise to assess areas of need and develop strategies, tools, and policies in collaboration with BJA staff for the benefit of the criminal justice field.

DID YOU KNOW?

Improving Courtroom Efficiency in North Carolina's 26th Judicial District

While the right to a speedy trial is one of the most basic guarantees of the U.S. Constitution, there are many variables that interfere with the efficiency of courtroom proceedings. North Carolina's 26th Judicial District (the 26th District) turned to the BJA [National Training and Technical Assistance Center](#) (NTTAC) for training and technical assistance (TTA) to address challenges with courtroom productivity. To learn about how the [Justice Management Institute](#) (JMI), a BJA NTTAC consultant, helped the 26th District implement case management best practices and enhance its courtroom efficiency, check out the latest [TTA Spotlight article](#) from BJA NTTAC.



FEATURED PROGRAM

Medal of Valor Program Application Period Opens in May

Every day, public safety officers risk their lives to protect America's citizens and its communities. To honor that commitment, Congress created the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor (MOV) Program, which established the highest national award for valor, honoring public safety officers who have exhibited exceptional courage, regardless of their personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life. The President or Vice President awards the MOV in a White House ceremony for each year's recipients.

News You Can Use

Inaugural National Body-Worn Camera Conference Held

Deputy Principal Assistant Attorney General Beth McGarry, BJA Director Denise E. O'Donnell, Deputy Director Kristen Mahoney, BJA staff, and the Center for Naval Analysis (CNA) hosted the "Inaugural National Body-Worn Camera Conference" on April 18 and 19 in Washington, DC. This working session convened subject matter experts, implementers, advocates, and related criminal justice practitioners to discuss policy development, implementation, and management of body-worn camera programs, lessons learned, and next steps as BJA builds the Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program. Read more about the Body-Worn Camera Program and access the National Body-Worn Camera Toolkit [here](#).



BJA Staff Attend National Stepping Up Summit

The National Stepping Up Summit was held on April 17-19 in Washington, DC. [Stepping Up](#), a partnership of the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation (APA Foundation), is a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses who are incarcerated in prisons and jails. Director Denise E. O'Donnell spoke at the summit on upcoming plans for the Stepping Up Initiative. BJA Policy staff members were in attendance.



Smart Policing Initiative Workshop on Community Engagement

BJA Policy Advisor Catherine McNamee participated in the Smart Policing Initiative (SPI) Workshop on Community Engagement, held April 26 and 27 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Representatives from SPI and BJA-sponsored Byrne Criminal Justice Initiative (BCJI) sites attended to share promising approaches to community engagement that have arisen from their work.

As the concepts of community policing, procedural justice, collaborative reform, and community outreach and collaboration increase in importance in SPI, and generally in the world of policing, it is beneficial to integrate these concepts and practices into policing. In addition, BCJI has community collaboration as a core goal. This workshop presented an opportunity for collaboration between SPI and BCJI on best practices for building trust and improving community engagement.

BJA Presents at Safeguarding Children Symposium

Director Denise E. O'Donnell presented at the Osborne Association/Pinkerton Fellowship symposium, held in New York at John Jay College of Criminal Justice on April 20, 2016, on how policies and practices impact the children and families of incarcerated individuals.

As part of an overall training initiative, Director O'Donnell showed the *Safeguarding Children of Arrested Parents* [training video](#) during her presentation. BJA and the International Association of Chiefs of Police developed the training video to introduce and demonstrate the core principles of the *Safeguarding Children of Arrested Parents* Model Policy to law enforcement organizations across the nation. Additional resources on the Safeguarding Children initiative are available [here](#).

Grants & Funding

Visit our [Funding Page](#) to view all BJA solicitations open in April, including:

- Joint Drug Courts
- TTA for Pretrial Release Decision-Making
- RSAT for State Prisoners TTA
- Tribal Justice System Capacity Building TTA
- National Adult and Juvenile Reentry Resource Center
- Smart Reentry

And look for other opportunities on [OJP's Funding Resource Center page!](#)

 [Funding Resource Center](#)

In Focus This Month

National Reentry Week

In observation of National Reentry Week (April 24–30), Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro traveled to Philadelphia on April 25 to hold reentry-focused events with public housing advocates, legal services providers, and community leaders. Assistant Attorney General Karol Mason recently wrote a [blog post](#) for National Reentry Week for the Washington Post.

Removing barriers to reentry helps formerly incarcerated individuals find jobs, attain stable housing, and support their families. An important part of succeeding in DOJ's commitment is preparing those who have paid their debt to society for opportunities to cultivate lives as productive citizens following reentry, and addressing the collateral consequences that prevent successful reentry to society.

Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program

Updates to PSOB Website

On April 6, 2016, a notice regarding the new protocol for determining 9/11 exposure claims was posted to the PSOB website at www.psob.gov.



Enacted in 1976, the PSOB Program provides death, disability, and education benefits to those eligible for the program. Visit the [PSOB website](#) to apply for these federal benefits for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders killed or catastrophically disabled in the line of duty. For questions regarding these new resources or the PSOB Program, call the PSOB Office at 888-744-6513 (toll-free) or 202-307-0635.

The application period for the 2015-2016 MOV will open on **May 31, 2016** at 8:00 a.m. (ET) and will close on **July 31, 2016** at 11:59 p.m. (ET). Eligibility is limited to incidents that occur between June 1, 2015 and May 31, 2016.

BJA, which administers the MOV program, encourages public safety agency heads to nominate their personnel for incidents that occur during the eligibility period, and which they deem to be eligible for this award.

For additional information on the MOV, and to submit the required online application, go to the Medal of Valor [web page](#). Interested parties may also contact Gregory Joy, BJA Policy Advisor and Designated Federal Officer for the MOV Program, at 202-514-1369 or Gregory.joy@usdoj.gov.

 **FOLLOW** us on TWITTER

 **Like** us on FACEBOOK

 **PRINTER-friendly version**

 **E-MAIL** the current issue

 **SUBSCRIBE** to Justice Today

 **BROWSE** the archives

 **SEND** us your feedback

[U.S. Department of Justice](#) | [Office of Justice Programs](#) | [Privacy Statement and Disclaimers](#) | [FOIA](#)

If you no longer want to receive periodic e-mail notifications from NewsFromBJA,
please [click here and follow the instructions to unsubscribe](#).

{{Office of Justice Programs/Horizontal}}