

June 2014

In the Spotlight

Recidivism Reduction Highlighted at Major Events in Washington, DC

On June 12, two significant events occurred that focused on reducing recidivism, improving public safety, and cutting corrections spending. In the morning, OJP's Assistant Attorney General Karol V. Mason, Deputy Assistant to the President for Urban Affairs Roy Austin, and Mike Thompson, Director, Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, provided opening remarks for a roundtable discussion among state corrections officials and leaders from around the country. The roundtable participants discussed successful policy implementation that has provided a fundamental shift in how states examine corrections and public safety policies. The discussion illuminated how the BJA-administered adult Second Chance Act (SCA) and Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) activities have provided invaluable resources to the field, contributed to system reforms, and provided overwhelming evidence of success.



Roundtable participants

In the afternoon, BJA Director O'Donnell joined Governors Tom Corbett (R-PA) and Earl Ray Tomblin (D-WV), in addition to Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), Congressman Chaka Fattah (D-PA), Congressman Hank Johnson (D-GA), and Senator Rob Portman (R-OH), as they discussed their states' successes in implementing "smart on crime" policies that support individuals' successful reentry to the community, and acknowledging the role that BJA-administered SCA and JRI programs play in assisting their efforts. Visit the CSG web site for [more information](#) and to [view the presentation](#).



Governors Corbett and Tomblin (photo courtesy of CSG)

Director O'Donnell also announced a new competitive Second Chance Act challenge grant that will enable states to further their use of evidence-based and data-driven decisionmaking to achieve even bolder recidivism reduction goals. This year, BJA will competitively select three states to be national models and pilot sites to assist other states in achieving their recidivism reduction goals.

Also highlighted was the release by the BJA-supported National Reentry Resource Center of a new report, [Reducing Recidivism: States Deliver Results](#), which highlights eight states that have achieved reductions in statewide recidivism in recent years: Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.

News You Can Use

Register Today for the Crime Analysis Symposium

Law enforcement executives are invited to a free symposium, "[Advancing Policing Through Innovation and Science: A Crime Analysis Symposium for Law Enforcement Leaders](#)," which will discuss how to integrate crime analysis into their policing strategies to reduce crime rates in a cost-effective way. The Police Foundation and the International Association of Crime Analysts, with support from BJA, are presenting the symposium on July 16, 2014 in Cambridge, MA.

Nominate an Officer for the Medal of Valor

BJA is accepting nominations through July 31, 2014 for the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor. The highest national award for valor by a public safety officer, this medal is awarded annually by the President or Vice President of the United



DID YOU KNOW?

BJA NTTAC To Launch New TTA Reporting Portal for BJA Grantees

To further enhance the way BJA's training and technical assistance (TTA) providers capture, track, and report on TTA activities, BJA NTTAC is developing the BJA TTA Reporting Portal to replace the current TTARS system. This new system will enable BJA and TTA providers to attain a comprehensive, real-time awareness of TTA activities and allow for standardized and robust reporting and analysis capabilities.

The TTA Reporting Portal is in the final stages of development and is currently being tested by BJA TTA providers and staff. If you are a BJA TTA provider and have questions regarding the TTA Reporting Portal, please e-mail nttac@bjatraining.org or call 1-855-BJA-TTAC (1-855-252-8822).



FEATURED PROGRAM

BJA Announces New Pay for Success Resources

BJA, in partnership with the Urban Institute, released a set of presentations and publications to describe the implementation of Pay for Success (PFS) in the justice system. Sound PFS projects require strategic planning to identify a justice system's cost and population drivers and the corresponding evidence-based solutions. This model provides an innovative process for the government to clarify and

States to public safety officers who have exhibited exceptional courage, regardless of personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life. Find out more at www.medalofvalor.gov.

Want To Become a Criminal Justice/Mental Health Learning Site?

In partnership with BJA, the CSG Justice Center is seeking applicants for the [Criminal Justice/Mental Health Collaboration Learning Sites Program](#). This program is designed to identify and highlight agencies from across the country with successful collaborations between the criminal justice and mental health systems in the areas of pretrial, community corrections, and court-based programs that are willing to share their expertise with the field. Applications are due July 11, 2014.

Grants & Funding

All BJA FY 2014 competitive grant solicitations are now closed. For other funding opportunities available through OJP, visit oip.gov/funding/solicitations.htm.

BJA expects to announce all FY 2014 grant awards by October 1, and they will be posted on the [OJP web site](#).

In Focus This Month

BJA's BCJI Program Featured at Choice Neighborhoods Conference

BJA staff facilitated a workshop on the [Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation](#) (BCJI) program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Choice Neighborhoods 2014 Annual Conference on June 18-19. The conference brought together grantees and subject matter experts from around the country to hear about promising practices, partnerships, and programs that will assist in transforming Choice Neighborhoods. The workshop explored how the goals of BJA's BCJI program and HUD's [Choice Neighborhoods](#) program fit together as part of a comprehensive strategy to advance neighborhood revitalization. Representatives from communities that have received both BCJI and Choice grants shared early lessons about building partnerships with police departments, sequencing public safety efforts with other revitalization strategies, and implementing data-driven crime reduction strategies focused on hot spots that have posed major crime problems for years.

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](#).



quantify its policy goals, and for philanthropic and commercial investors to leverage their charitable giving.

Specific resources now available include:

- Pay for Success and Social Impact Bonds: Funding the Infrastructure for Evidence-Based Change
- An Overview of Pay for Success: funding the Infrastructure for Evidence-Based Change
- Five Steps to Pay for Success: Implementing Pay for Success Projects in the Juvenile and Criminal Justice Systems
- Sharing Risk: How Pay for Success can make Government More Efficient

To learn more, go to www.urban.org/social/impactbonds/



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