

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

# BJA's Justice Today



BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE • OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

DENISE E. O'DONNELL, DIRECTOR

July 2015

## In the Spotlight

### RSAT National Workshop

BJA convened the fourth annual Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) National Workshop on July 16-17 in New Orleans. The theme of this year's meeting was "Leading the Way for Smart Corrections."



BJA Policy Advisor Tim Jeffries conducting opening session at RSAT workshop

BJA Policy Advisor Tim Jeffries opened the event, and Mary Lou Leary, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Deputy Director, delivered the opening keynote address, discussing the administration's message of equipping RSAT clients with the necessary resources for successful community reintegration.

The conference brought together representatives from 50 states and territories and provided an opportunity to share program successes and identify gaps in resources needed to continue the mission. Federal partners attended from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), as well as drug court collaborative technical assistance providers at the Council of State Governments, Center for Court Innovation, and Legal Action Center. Visit RSAT's [website](#) to see highlights from the workshop.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### NADCP Annual Training Conference

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) [21st Annual Training Conference](#) was held from July 27 to July 30, 2015 near Washington, D.C. The NADCP Conference, one of the largest conferences on substance abuse, mental health, and the criminal justice system, was conducted simultaneously this year with the Justice For Vets 3rd Annual Vet Court Con. BJA Director Denise O'Donnell provided opening remarks and addressed the NADCP executive board, leading the discussion of BJA's [Justice Reinvestment Initiative](#).



Director O'Donnell addresses the NADCP 21st Annual Training Conference

## News You Can Use

### SCF Resource Center Now Available

BJA and the [Pepperdine School of Public Policy](#) launched the [Swift Certain Fair \(SCF\) Resource Center](#). The SCF Center supports state, local, territorial, and tribal jurisdictions and agencies in implementing swift, certain, and fair sanctions in community corrections. The SCF Center provides free training and technical assistance (TTA) and evaluation services to eligible programs. Currently, the center works with jurisdictions and agencies in more than 20 states and tribal jurisdictions. The SCF Center held its first SCF/HOPE Workshop, a free training available to stakeholders, on July 17, 2015, and it will hold another session on August 4, 2015.



### BJA and IACP Publish Health Checklist for Law Enforcement Officers

BJA, in partnership with the [International Association of Chiefs of Police](#) (IACP), has released a physician's checklist, [Healthy Watch: Checking in for Duty](#), to help law enforcement officers be their own best health advocates. Released as part of IACP's [Reducing Officer Injuries](#) project, the trifold pamphlet contains a list of recommended questions to ask a doctor during an annual physical and encourages law enforcement officers to take an active role in their own health.

### Pathways to Justice: Start the Conversation

The Arc's [National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability](#) released a YouTube video, [Pathways to Justice: Start the Conversation](#), with BJA funding. The video raises awareness of criminal justice issues affecting disabled citizens.

### Dialogue on Implementing TLOA's Enhanced Sentencing Authority

## FEATURED PROGRAM

### BJA SPI Phase VI Inaugural Meeting

BJA Director Denise O'Donnell and the BJA Policy Office convened the BJA [Smart Policing Initiative](#) (SPI) Phase VI Inaugural Meeting in Boston on July 29 and July 30, 2015. This meeting was attended by approximately 10 SPI sites and included opening remarks by Director O'Donnell, as well as keynote addresses by U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz and Boston Police Commissioner William Evans. The meeting introduced FY 2014 SPI sites to the principles and practices of

On July 13-14, 2015, BJA and the [American Probation and Parole Association](#) (APPA) conducted [A Dialogue on the Tribal Law & Order Act \(TLOA\) Implementation of Enhanced Sentencing Authority](#) in Tucson, Arizona. At this no-cost event, tribal governments shared their experiences in implementing new TLOA authority. The discussion explored how to better implement enhanced sentencing authority among interested tribes. For more information, visit APPA's [Tribal Civil & Criminal Legal Assistance Training & Technical Assistance Project](#) web page.

### National Convening on LEAD

BJA Policy Office staff actively participated in the National Convening on Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD). Hosted by the White House, the meeting assembled state and local law enforcement officials, elected and community officials, and members of social services and community organizations seeking to implement LEAD, a pre-booking diversion program that the Seattle and Santa Fe police departments are using to enhance public safety while keeping nonviolent offenders out of jail. To learn more about this initiative, visit [here](#).

### BJA Discusses Evaluation and Assessment of Funded Programs

This spring, BJA published a comprehensive review of evaluation and research literature for 32 BJA-funded programs: [Evaluation & Research Literature: The State of Knowledge on BJA-Funded Programs](#). This month, BJA Senior Policy Advisor C. Edward Banks discusses the evaluation process and future plans to continue this assessment on the *TTA Today Blog*, which is published by the [BJA National Training and Technical Assistance Center](#) (NTTAC). Read the post [here](#).

### Share Your Photos with BJA

BJA grantees & TTA providers: BJA is looking for photographs that reflect your program's accomplishments and improvements in your community. We are building an archive of pictures from your activities and events for use in future materials. Share the excitement of your success and send your pictures to [Byrne.Discretionary@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:Byrne.Discretionary@ojp.usdoj.gov).

## Grants & Funding

No BJA FY 2015 competitive grant solicitations are currently open. Visit our [Funding Page](#) to stay up-to-date on upcoming BJA solicitations.

Don't forget to visit [OJP's Funding Resource Center](#), where you'll find OJP funding opportunities, an overview of OJP's grant process, and more!

 [Funding Resource Center](#)

## In Focus This Month

### Update on the JRI Tribal Pilot Parole Program in South Dakota

One year ago, South Dakota enacted a tribal pilot parole program through an agreement between the state and the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate. Under the program, which was funded in part through BJA's [Justice Reinvestment Initiative](#) (JRI), the tribe supervises enrolled tribal parolees who want to return to the Lake Traverse Reservation. As a part of the program, a tribal wellness team meets regularly to provide support for the parolees in the program.



In its first year, the results of the pilot program have been promising: 95 percent of the parolees in the tribal pilot parole program did not abscond or violate the terms of their parole, and nearly 70 percent did not receive sanction. No offenders were returned to prison because of a new conviction and only one offender was returned to prison due to a technical violation. Read South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard's summary of the program in his [Governor's Column: Update on the Tribal Pilot Parole Program](#).

SPI, and provided key expectations regarding research partnerships, sustainability, and collaboration on these projects. Learn more about this program at [website](#).



 [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](#)

## 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](#).



[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](#).