

Message from the Director

Much of our work at the Justice Center this fall focused on coordinating the speakers and content of the Child Sexual Abuse Conference in late October. Despite the fact that Hurricane Sandy arrived just in time for the conference, there was still a great turnout. We received a great deal of positive feedback, and are now pursuing new projects that came to light as a result of the conference. In particular, the Justice Center hopes to organize a workshop on child grooming in cooperation with the Penn State Terrorism Center (ICST) to take place next fall.

We continue to move forward on our ongoing research, and we're excited about our new projects that have just begun. Read on to find out what's on the *Docket* this month.

PENN STATE JUSTICE CENTER FOR RESEARCH

Doris L. MacKenzie, Director
Gary Zajac, Managing Director

Professor Doris L. MacKenzie

Preventable Precursors of Adult Crime

Dr. Brian Bumbarger, Justice Center Faculty Affiliate from the Prevention Research Center, along with Dr. Gary Zajac, Justice Center Managing Director, were recently awarded a two-year grant of \$180,000 from the state of Pennsylvania. This project supports the Justice Reinvestment Initiative by examining preventable precursors of adult offending among state prison inmates and identifying characteristics of youth and schools predictive of school failure and delinquency, and later criminality.

The Justice Reinvestment Initiative seeks to identify programs, practices, and policies that will result in the reduction of PA's corrections population (and corresponding corrections spending), and to capture and reinvest subsequent savings back into these programs and practices. Work has begun on an analysis of extant inmate data from the PA Department of Corrections.

Female Inmate Co-Occurring Disorder Project

Dr. Gary Zajac and Assistant Professor Deirdre O'Sullivan, Justice Center Affiliate from the College of Education, are working on this Second Chance Grant project under a \$60,000 contract with the PA Department of Corrections. This project is targeting state corrections personnel who work with female offenders diagnosed with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders and are within 18 months of parole. These offenders will be returning to Philadelphia, Harrisburg, or Pittsburgh.

Department of Corrections staff members recently attended a training focused on treating co-occurring substance dependence and mental illness. Community agency staff members who will be working with the offenders following their release met with the Department of Corrections to discuss the details of the pharmaceutical intervention. Researchers will then evaluate the re-integration services provided to this group of female offenders.

Child Sexual Abuse Conference

More than 400 attendees gathered to share research, stories of survival, and plans for future work in the prevention of child sexual abuse. The conference featured keynote speakers, Elizabeth Smart and Sugar Ray Leonard, who discussed their experiences as child victims of sexual abuse. Many of the conference sessions were streamed live to the public and are now archived on the conference's website: <http://protectchildren.psu.edu/agenda>

The conference served as a great opportunity for networking and building relationships between Justice Center researchers and other organizations who are dedicated to the research and prevention of child sexual abuse. President Erickson noted in his closing remarks that Penn State hopes to make the conference an annual event.

Police Training Fellowship

Penn State's Justice and Safety Institute (JASI) recently received a \$35,000 award from the Department of State to develop a fellowship program in which 2 Moroccan police executives will spend 3 months studying under the faculty at Penn State. Don Zettlemoyer, Director of JASI, will be working in cooperation with Dr. Gary Zajac and Professor John Kramer, faculty affiliate from the Sociology and Crime, Law, and Justice department, to oversee the educational component of this program.

The effort is part of an initiative to modernize and improve the delivery of democratically based police service to the Moroccan people. Executives returning to Morocco are intended to serve as change agents for the national police service.

Rural PA Research - Results

PA State Police Coverage - Through a grant from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, Dr. Gary Zajac and other Justice Center researchers completed a study about Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) coverage of municipalities that either have no police department at all, or that have only a part-time police department. Results indicated that PSP provided full- or part-time coverage to 67% of all municipalities in PA. Also, nearly 75% of all PSP service calls came from municipalities that do not have their own police department.

This study also examined the revenue received by the Commonwealth from the municipalities. The findings highlighted that municipalities do not provide any direct compensation to the Commonwealth in exchange for PSP's services. Although revenue is generated through traffic fines, half of this revenue is returned back to the municipalities. The Commonwealth retains all revenue from non-traffic related fines. These results raise important questions regarding policy considerations. For example, should PSP be reimbursed for their services to PA municipalities?

PA Rural County Prison Systems - In this study, Justice Center researchers examined trends in rural county jail populations and demographics, jail capacity, capital projects and development, budgets, and staffing during 2004 - 2011. There was minimal evidence that the rural county jails offered programming that targets key recidivism risk factors, such as anti-social attitudes and decision making skills. Additionally, 27% of the rural jails reported offering programs that either show no effect on recidivism or are not clearly related to the goal of recidivism reduction (e.g. nutrition). Resulting policy considerations suggest that rural county jails should evaluate the quality of their current programs and invest resources in programming that strongly impacts recidivism.

Monitoring Sex Offenders' Use of Internet

Dr. Ian Elliott, Justice Center Research Scholar, has been developing a pilot project with the Pennsylvania Board of Parole and Probation to study the use of e-Safety computer monitoring software (Securus) as a means of supervising the computer use of sex offenders in the community. Sex offenders can often have their computer use restricted or revoked as a part of their conditions of community reentry.

Currently, the Parole Board is determining the software features that they want to utilize for this particular project.

Juvenile in Justice Blog

In September, the Justice Center co-sponsored a lecture by Richard Ross, Professor of Art, University of California, Santa Barbara. Professor Ross' project, Juvenile-in-Justice, is a collection of images featuring the American juvenile justice system. Justice Center Postdoctoral Scholar, Matthew DeMichele recently contributed a blog post to Professor Ross' website.

In this blog, Dr. DeMichele discusses his research on the increases in incarceration rates that have occurred since 1974. He compares the justice system to fast food restaurants, in which quantity becomes more important than quality. His blog can be found here: <http://www.juvenile-in-justice.com/mcdonaldization-of-justice>

Commission for Women

Rose Baker, Justice Center Faculty Affiliate, serves as a co-chair for the Penn State Commission for Women. On November 6th, there was a full commission meeting on the topic of sexual assault and child abuse. Dr. Kate Staley, Justice Center Research Scientist, and Dr. Ian Elliott served as guest panelists along with other Penn State faculty and staff. Kate and Ian shared their expertise in the fields of child sexual abuse and sexual offending and answered questions from the commission.

Justice Center for Research

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Recent Publications

Stahler, Gerald, Jeremy Mennis, Steven Belenko, Wayne Welsh, Matthew Hiller and **Gary Zajac**. "Predicting Recidivism for Released State Prison Offenders: Examining the Influence of Individual and Neighborhood Factors on the Likelihood of Reincarceration." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*. Accepted for publication, date pending.

Welsh, Wayne N. and **Gary Zajac**. "A Multi-Site Evaluation of Prison-Based Drug Treatment: Five Year Follow-up Results." *The Prison Journal*. Accepted for publication, anticipated publication date 2013.

Williams, R., **Elliott, I. A.**, Beech, A. R. (2013). Identifying Sexual Grooming Themes Used by Internet Sex Offenders. *Deviant Behavior*, 34, 135-152. doi:10.1080/01639625.2012.707550.