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INTRODUCTION

THE ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY

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Established in 1983, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) acts as a convener, bringing all parts of the criminal justice system together to work for system-wide improvement. Prior to the Authority's inception, there was no organization in Illinois that as part of its statutory charge called for the key leaders of the criminal justice system and members of the public to come together on a regular basis to examine and discuss developments in criminal justice policy, crime trends, and emerging programs and practices. Instead, police chiefs, sheriffs, state's attorneys, public defenders, court clerks, probation chiefs and corrections officials acted independently and relied on their own resources when issues arose. Victim service providers, critical partners of the system, were often overlooked, or included only as an afterthought. In response to these shortcomings, the Authority's enabling legislation laid the foundation for discussion of issues affecting the entire criminal justice system, service providers, advocates, and members of the public.

The Authority's specific powers and duties are detailed in the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Act [20 ILCS 3930 *et. seq.*]. The statutory responsibilities of the Authority fall under the categories of grants administration, research and analysis, policy and planning, and information systems and technology.

HISTORY

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is a state agency dedicated to improving the administration of criminal justice. The roots of the agency date back to 1973, when its predecessor, the Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) division of the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (ILEC), developed information system standards for state and local government units. The CJIS also developed an inmate tracking system for the Stateville Correctional Center and oversaw installation of two large federally mandated grant accounting systems on the state's computer network. In 1977, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Council (ICJIC) was established to develop policies and procedures, promulgate rules and regulations, and take any other actions required to protect the security and privacy of criminal justice information in Illinois.

In 1982, Congress eliminated federal funds used to support the ILEC, so alternatives had to be developed. Through an executive order, then-Gov. James R. Thompson abolished both the ILEC, and the ICJIC.

A second 1982 executive order issued by former Gov. Thompson established the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority as an independent state agency. The Authority officially began operating Jan. 1, 1983, after passage of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Act [20

ILCS 3930/1 et seq.] by the Illinois General Assembly. The Act was amended in 1990 to add the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Program, which has been administered and staffed by the Authority since Jan. 1, 1991.

Another component of both the ILEC and the Authority was the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), which was established in 1977. Its purpose is to improve the quality and availability of criminal justice data, to develop new statistical methods and applications, and to help state and local criminal justice agencies apply statistical techniques to problem-solving and more efficient resource management. The SAC evolved into what is now the Authority's Research & Analysis Unit. The Research and Analysis Unit has consistently received national recognition for its efforts, most recently with the prestigious Philip Hoke National Publication Award of Excellence from the Justice Research and Statistics Association.

MISSION STATEMENT

ICJIA identifies critical issues facing the criminal justice system in Illinois and proposes and evaluate policies, programs, and legislation that address those issues. ICJIA also works to ensure that the criminal justice system in Illinois is efficient and effective. The Authority accomplishes its goals through efforts in four areas grant administration, research and analysis, policy and planning, and information systems and technology.

Grants administration

In the area of grants administration, the Authority:

- Implements and funds criminal justice and violence prevention programs under the Victims of Crime Act, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program, Adult Redeploy Illinois, and other state and federal grant programs.
- Monitors program activity and provides technical assistance to grantees.
- Provides staff support to the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, an 11-member board working to curb motor vehicle theft.

Research and analysis

In the area of research and analysis, the Authority:

- Publishes research studies that analyze a variety of crime trends and criminal justice issues.
- Acts as a clearinghouse for information and research on crime, crime trends, and the criminal justice system.
- Audits the state central repositories of criminal history record information for data accuracy and completeness.
- Provides or directs partners to technical assistance opportunities.

Policy and planning

In the area of policy and planning, the Authority:

- Develops and implements comprehensive strategies for a coordinated response by the various components of the criminal justice system for crime prevention and control, and assistance to crime victims using federal funds awarded to Illinois.
- Advises the Governor and the General Assembly on criminal justice policies and legislation.
- Convenes groups of policymakers and practitioners to identify and address ongoing concerns of criminal justice officials.
- Develops and evaluates state and local programs for improving law enforcement and the administration of criminal justice.
- Participates in initiatives that improve the impact and cost effectiveness of the criminal justice system.
- Identifies and provides information about evidence-based and promising practices for implementation by policymakers and practitioners.

Information systems and technology

In the area of information systems and technology, the Authority:

- Designs, develops, and supports systems which enhance the quality of victim service data.
- Serves as the sole administrative appeal body for determining citizen challenges to the accuracy of their criminal history records.
- Monitors the operation of existing criminal justice information systems to protect the constitutional rights and privacy of citizens.
- Supports the development of an integrated criminal justice information network in Illinois.

The Authority's specific powers and duties are listed in detail in the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Act [20 ILCS 3930].

VALUES STATEMENT

The Authority is dedicated to improving the administration of criminal justice in the state. The Authority works to identify critical issues facing the criminal justice system and proposes legislation, programs, and policies that address those issues. The Authority also strives to ensure the criminal justice system is as efficient and effective as possible. Authority staff are guided by the following values as they work to fulfill this mission.

Integrity

We believe in personal and professional integrity. We take pride in the Authority's mission and in maintaining and building on the agency's reputation for producing high quality work that is accurate, honest, fair, timely, and ethical. To that end, we will conduct our activities and ourselves in a manner that earns the public's trust and inspires confidence in our work. We will seek to encourage public feedback on our activities and public participation in planning activities and meetings.

Leadership

We are committed to supporting and developing staff leadership at all levels. Authority managers should lead by supporting innovation and by providing purpose, direction, example, and motivation while working toward the Authority's mission and improving the Authority. Our staff is encouraged to exercise leadership in motivating subordinates, coworkers, and/or supervisors to accomplish the Authority's mission and to adhere to the values established by the Authority. When appropriate, the Authority, as an organization, should assume a leadership role in the criminal justice system.

Diversity

We believe in an environment that supports and encourages a diverse workplace. We are committed to creating a comfortable and effective work environment; building rapport between people who are culturally, racially, and by gender different; utilizing the diverse ideas and experiences of all people in the workplace; supporting the right of every individual to be treated with fairness, consideration and respect; and enhancing our organizational culture by continuously improving human resource practices so that all staff feel welcome, their differences are valued, and they are supported in their work.

Professional development

We believe the most important asset of the Authority is its staff, and believe in giving each employee a chance to realize his or her fullest potential. We are committed to enhancing and expanding the skills, knowledge, and expertise of our staff. Therefore, we will work to meet training needs and promote individual as well as collective career enhancement.

Public service

We recognize that as a government agency, we serve the public. We understand that our purpose is to serve the best interests of the public. To maximize the use of public funds in support of our mission, we will strive to operate in a cost-effective and efficient manner, and support programs that operate in such a manner. We acknowledge our responsibility to disseminate information to maintain our accountability to the public.

Respect

We are committed to cooperation and teamwork and will keep the value of those with whom we associate, inside and outside of the Authority, at the forefront as we pursue the Authority's mission. We will strive to treat others with consideration, common courtesy, and dignity.

Teamwork and collaboration

We value teamwork and collaboration. We seek an atmosphere where individual talents and organizational expertise are combined to achieve successful outcomes. Internally, we will foster shared participation, responsibility, and recognition among staff at all levels and across functional units. Externally, we will facilitate constructive relationships among policymakers, criminal justice agencies, and stakeholders throughout the criminal justice system.

Excellence

We believe all our work must be of high quality. That is, it should be useful, informative, timely, complete, accurate, cost effective, objective, free from bias, accessible, and reflective of the best professional practice. We also believe that the work of any one staff person reflects upon the work of the entire Authority. We expect all staff members to generate high-quality work products.