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## Cook County Sheriff's Reentry Council Newsletter, Feb. 2010

David E Olson, *Loyola University Chicago*



*Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives*

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# Cook County Sheriff's Reentry Council Quarterly Update

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## In-Reach Services Provided to Detainees

A major milestone was reached in December 2009, when the Illinois Secretary of State and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office partnered with the Cook County Department of Corrections (CCDOC) to provide in-reach services to hundreds of detainees. Through the efforts of Rashanda Carroll, CCDOC Assistant Executive Director of Program Services, detainees from several divisions in the Cook County Jail, the Department of Women's Justice Services (DWJS) and the Cook County Sheriff's Day Reporting Center received services targeted to their specific reentry needs.

On December 17, 2009, staff from the State's Attorney's Divi-



**Cook County Sheriff's  
Reentry Council Members**

sion of Child Support met individually with over one hundred detainees who owe back child support to both the State of Illinois and the mothers of their children. Many detainees were unaware of the "Clean Slate" program, which waives their obligation to the State of Illinois in order to get child sup-

port payments flowing to mothers. With the help of access to computerized records, Elise McWoodson and Rosetta Claybrooks, both from the State's Attorney's Office, provided private, personalized counsel to each detainee.

On that same day, over two hundred detainees participated in individual, informal hearings regarding the status of their driver's license. Detainees completed a release form prior to the event. Sereta Deal, Director of Informal Hearings for the Illinois Secretary of State, obtained and reviewed their complete driving history and created individual recommendations for each detainee, based on his circum-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Jail Average Daily Population Down in 2009

During calendar year 2009, there were more than 86,000 admissions into the Cook County Jail, and the average daily population of the jail was just above 9,000 inmates. This average daily population of the Cook County Jail still places it among the largest in the United States, but the average of 9,039

inmates during 2009 represents a reduction from the average daily population of 10,000 or more inmates that was evident from 2000 through 2007 (Figure 1). The decrease over the past few years can be attributed to a number of factors, including fewer arrests by police departments in Cook

County, as well as a number of programs put into place in Cook County to divert inmates from the jail. Because admissions to the jail are primarily associated with detainees in pre-trial status, admissions to the jail generally reflect patterns in crime and arrests in Cook County, particularly in

*(Continued on page 3)*



Division 2



Division 11

**Sheriff's DWJS receives \$250,000 grant through U.S. Department of Justice's Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program to improve access to mental health services**

**Sheriff's Day Reporting Center improves transition from jail to the community, reducing return to jail**

## Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Jail Study

In 2007, the National Prison Rape Survey was administered to more than 40,000 jail inmates across the United States as required under the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). The self-administered, anonymous survey was given to randomly selected jail detainees, including 3,673 inmates in the Cook County Jail's Division 2 and Division 11. Under PREA, the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics is required to publish the estimated prevalence of inmate-on-inmate, and staff-on-

inmate, sexual victimization for each facility included in the sample, and rank those facilities from highest to lowest in terms of the prevalence of sexual victimization. The report from this first-ever national study of sexual victimization among jail detainees was published in June of 2008.

Nationally, the study found that 0.7% percent of jail detainees reported non-consensual inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization, and 2.0% of jail inmates in the national sample reported staff-on-

inmate sexual misconduct. Findings from the study revealed that, within the Cook County Jail's Division 2 sample, 0.7% of detainees reported inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization and 1.9% of respondents reported staff-on-inmate sexual misconduct. Among those surveyed in Division 11, 1.5% reported inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization, and 2.4% reported staff-on-inmate sexual misconduct.

More details regarding the PREA survey of jail inmates, and detailed results from the study, can be found at <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/svljri07.pdf>

## Department of Women's Justice Services (DWJS) Receives Mental Health Grant

*Contributed by Marian Hatcher*

One of the most significant challenges for the DWJS is addressing the needs of females under the custody of the Sheriff that have severe mental health disorders. More than 75% of the women served by DWJS are diagnosed with severe mental health disorders, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), major depression, and substance abuse. These diagnoses illustrate that the women in-

involved in the criminal justice system and served by DWJS have impairment in multiple areas of functioning, and also the correlation with the substance abuse many engage in to self-manage the symptoms of their mental disorders.

Through a \$250,000 grant received from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, DWJS will be able to better assess women following their admis-

sion into the Cook County Jail and DWJS, and where appropriate, divert them into comprehensive community-based mental health treatment and peer support programs. This effort will be in collaboration with the specialized Mental Health Court operating in Cook County, ensuring that females who have gone through the DWJS, identified as having mental health treatment needs, and placed on probation, receive the services

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Reduced Recidivism Among Day Reporting Center Graduates

The Day Reporting Center (DRC) is an intensive supervision program located in the South Campus of the Cook County Jail, serving both pre-trial and sentenced adult males. The DRC provides a wide range of services, such as substance abuse treatment, vocational training, literacy and educational programs, and parenting classes. DRC participants are given a com-

prehensive assessment to identify their needs, and progress through stages of the program designed to aid the participants in becoming drug-free, employed, and educated, so that they can become law-abiding members of the community.

A preliminary examination of the impact the DRC program has had by researchers

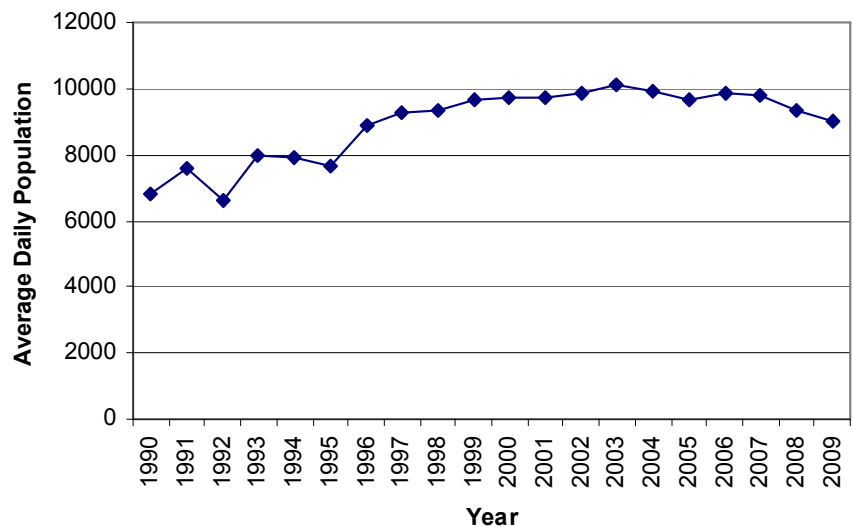
at Loyola revealed that less than 40% of those who completed the DRC and were placed on probation returned to the jail within 18 months, compared to 53% of the inmates released directly from the jail onto probation. Thus, the DRC appears to improve the transition from the jail back to the community for participants, resulting in a lower likelihood of coming back to the jail.

## Jail Admission & Population

(continued from page 1)

Chicago. Between 1990 and 2000, the volume of arrests for drug-law violations in Cook County doubled and, as a result, the average daily population of the Cook County Jail increased more than 40 percent. However, between 2000 and 2008, drug arrests in Cook County were down nearly 30%, and the overall crime rate decreased 20%. In addition to the reduction in crime and arrests, the Cook County Adult Probation Department also established a Pre-Trial Services Unit in December 2008 that provides judges with an assessment for felony defendants at bail hearings to better inform the decisions regarding the need for pre-trial detention in the jail.

Figure 1: Average Daily Population of the Cook County Department of Corrections 1990-2009



## In-reach Services (continued from pg 1)

stances. Each detainee received an individual set of recommendations, with the opportunity to review these options with staff from the Secretary of State's Office.

Last, but certainly not least, during the in-reach event, detainees lined up to receive new, corrected, or replacement state identification cards or driver's licenses. Felix Fernandez from the Illinois Secretary of State's Office, led a mobile unit team to handle the issuance of these state IDs and driver's licenses. For the first time, an indi-

vidual detained in the jail's general population is able to receive a replacement driver's license or state-issued identification card that will be available upon release from the jail. Those working in the community with those recently released from prisons and jails have frequently pointed to the lack of state-issued identification cards as a major obstacle to the formerly incarcerated being able to access and obtain services, housing and apply for jobs. One female detainee, who is receiving

substance abuse treatment services and other programming through the Sheriff's Department of Women's Justice Services (DWJS), and who received a state ID during the in-reach program, commented on how good she looked in the photo gracing her ID, stating "that's because I am sober now." The costs associated with the processing and issuance of the state IDs and driver's licenses were paid through the Inmate Welfare Fund, which is funded primarily by commissary revenue generated from the jail inmates.

**The next in-reach event for Jail detainees is scheduled for March 22, 2010.**

## DWJS (continued from pg 2)

they need. Grant funds will also provide case management and linkages to multiple community reentry and family reunification services. The project will capitalize on existing DWJS integrated model strategies that include assessment, stabilization and the development of a comprehensive reentry plan. It will allow for a seamless transition and linkage to formalized community mental

health treatment and other social services that are critical to successful reentry. When left unaddressed, chronic mental health disorders contribute to decreased adaptive and psychological functioning, substance use and abuse, poor decision making and are associated with increased recidivism and return to the jail. Two of the strongest predictors of recidivism are a

diagnosis of PTSD and heroin dependence.

Therefore this project addresses a critical area where the criminal justice and community mental health fields intersect, and will further promote collaboration and access to the multiple services female detainees released from the jail need to succeed.



DWJS Bright Space Contact Visiting Room  
The first mother and child contact visiting space in the country that is located in a jail setting.



## The Cook County Sheriff's Office of Reentry

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In order to support research, evaluation and planning efforts for the Cook County Sheriff's Office of Reentry, the Sheriff's Office entered into a cooperative agreement with Loyola University Chicago to support the development of an enhanced research capacity. Under the agreement, Dr. David Olson, Chair of the Criminal Justice Department at Loyola and Graduate Research Assistant Kelly McMahon, have been assigned to work one day per week with the Office of Reentry to develop datasets and protocols that can support research and evaluation, oversee program evaluations, and develop stronger ties between the academic community interested in conducting applied research and the Cook County Sheriff's Office.

## By the numbers... Men vs. Women in the CCDOC

During 2008, the proportion of inmates booked into the Cook County Department of Corrections (CCDOC) accounted for by men and women remained constant, with men accounting for 86% of admissions and women 14% of admissions.

The average age of those admitted to the CCDOC in 2008 was 33 years old, with females averaging slightly older than men (average of 34 years versus 33 years, respectively). As a result, 57% of the female detainees were over the age of 30, compared to only 49% of the male detainees being older than 30 (Figure 2).

Overall, the majority of detainees in the CCDOC during 2008 were African-American (67%), while a smaller proportion were accounted for by Hispanics (19%) and Whites (14%). In general, the biggest difference in the racial characteristics of male and female admissions into the jail was seen in the proportion accounted for by Hispanics, with more than 20% of the males admitted to the jail accounted for by Hispanics, compared to less than 10% of the females booked into

the jail during 2008.

The majority of detainees (82%) reported being single, and almost two-thirds (63%) reported having at least one child. Females admitted to the jail were more likely than their male counterparts to report having at least one child (78% versus 60%, respectively). Just over half (54%) of all inmates booked into the CCDOC reported having a high school diploma/GED, with females being slightly more likely than males to report this level of academic achievement (59% versus 54%, respectively).

As seen in the Figure 2, in 2008, roughly 35% of both male and female detainees admitted to the CCDOC were charged with a drug-law violation. However, crimes of violence accounted for 40% of charges against the male detainees compared to 28% of the charges against females admitted to the jail. Lastly, property crimes accounted for almost one-third of the charges against female detainees, compared to 22% of the charges against males admitted to the jail.

**Figure 2: Comparison of Male & Female Detainees Booked into the CCDOC During 2008**

