



CJPA Justice Bulletin

May - August 2015



CJPA Mission

The mission of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System is to provide a safe environment and to protect the lives of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) Bulletin is published to showcase Criminal Justice programs funded by CJPA and other criminal justice information. The CJPA bulletin is compiled and edited by the CJPA Statistic Analyst, Francine Atalig and includes articles and comments from other National Criminal Justice Associations.

Hon. Alexandro C. Castro, Chairman Supervisory Council

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John D. Cruz, Executive Director CJPA

The Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grants are statutory funding made available to specifically support programs that addresses Youth Development, Juvenile Justice System Improvements, and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands receives funds from the following OJJDP grant program: 1) Title II Formula Grant and 2) Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG). The purpose OJJDP grant programs is to provide support for “at-risk” youth as well as for youths who come in contact with the Juvenile Justice System.



The Juvenile Justice Specialist participated in the implementation of National Prevention Week from May 18-23, 2015 as a CJPA representative. National Prevention Week is a week dedicated to substance abuse prevention activities as well as mental health programs. The Specialist is a member of the training team that conducted the Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training for participants from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) Annual Conference is was held on June 10-13, 2015 in Washington DC. The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) is a nationwide coalition of State Advisory Groups (SAGs) and allies dedicated to preventing children and youth from becoming involved in the courts and upholding the highest standards of care when youth are charged with wrongdoing and enter the justice system. The CNMI is a current member of the coalition and the Juvenile Justice Specialist attended the conference and was able to meet with representatives from OJJDP.

The JJ Specialist participated in the US Attorney's Workforce Development Training in Saipan on June 19th as a CJPA representative, and this coincided with a site visit from the our OJJDP State Representative Mr. Ricco Hall. Our State Rep. was able to meet with the CJPA Staff as well as some OJJDP funded programs, and the visit ended with a meeting and tour of the Juvenile Detention Facility at the Department of Corrections.



The Title II Formula Grant application was submitted and is currently being processed by our Grantor Agency. The awarding of these funds to the CNMI is anticipated to be around September or October 2015. CJPA will be announcing the availability of funds as soon as the new grant awards are received and accepted by our Governor.

Update written by OJJDP Program Manager: Vincent Camacho

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, provides national leadership in developing the nation's capacity to reduce violence against women through the implementation of the Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP), Violence Against Women Act. Established by legislation, funds through VAWA formula grant, are made available to support effort in developing programs, policies, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in state, local, and tribal partnerships among police, prosecutors, victim advocates, health care providers, faith leaders, and others.

In May Governor Eloy S. Inos proclaimed the month of May as Karidat Month. This year marked the non-profits' 35th year of commitment to the CNMI. Karidat has been a sub-grantee for the Criminal Justice Planning Agency since the early 2000's and still continues to create a strong partnership to offer services to end violence against women as well as provide sexual assault services for victims. Part of Karidat month is the agency hosting a food drive as part of its month long activities. Karidat also hosted an open house on June 26, 2015 as part of moving into its new temporary location in the VS Sablan Plaza in Chalan Piao, behind Subway across Hopwood Jr. High School. The former Karidat building was ordered condemned and will need to be demolished and rebuilt for safety reasons. They invited all partnering agencies and held a silent auction to raise funds for their food pantry. Karidat provides direct client services, emergency housing and food assistance, safe housing, advocacy to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, counseling services, and case management services.



Update written by VAWA Program Manager: Monica Crisostomo

Established in 1984, the **VOCA, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)** oversee diverse programs that benefit victims of crime. OVC is one of five bureaus and four offices with grant-making authority within the Office of Justice Programs of the Department of Justice. OVC provides funding to state and territory victim assistance and compensation programs the lifeline services that help victims to heal. Furthermore, funds made available through VOCA is designed for programs whose sole purpose is to provide direct services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assaults, survivors of homicide and other crime victims.

FY15 VOCA Grant Applications

There were two VOCA grant applications that were submitted for the FY15 applications. One is for the Formula grant in the amount of five hundred thousand one hundred twelve dollars (\$508,112) for direct victim services programs. The amount allotted for the CNMI increased for FY15. However, the increase may be just a one-time increase as the US Congress continues to argue over the FY16 budget appropriation and may go back to the FY14 amount for next year.

The second application is a new grant for training of victim advocates in the amount of twenty three thousand five hundred sixty three dollars (\$23,563). This grant also will probably be a one-time grant and may not be available next year. The training grant will be use to bring over a trainer from the National Victim Advocate Academy. CJPA will coordinate the training with the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA) to identify the trainers.

New VOCA Performance Measure Report

There is a new performance measure report for all VOCA subgrantees that will take effect October 1st 2015. OVC is currently working on setting up a training webinar for VOCA administrators. Once the administrators are trained, CJPA will then set up a training to its subgrantees.

Update written by VOCA Program Manager: John Cruz

Proposed as a mechanism to streamline justice funding and grant administration, the *Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)* allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions.

Funds under JAG program may be used to support the hiring, training, and employing of additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel on a continuing basis. Furthermore, funds can be used to procure equipment, technology, and other material directly related to basic law enforcement functions, as well as establishing crime prevention programs involving cooperation between community residents and law enforcement personnel to control, detect, or investigate crime or to prosecute criminals.

The FY 2015 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and the FY15 John R. Justice Program Grant are still pending and being reviewed by the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

The Division of Customs seized 23 pounds or 10,617 grams of ICE (Crystal Methamphetamine) with an estimated street value of over 4 million dollars. The drug was found during a routine inspection of a container arriving from Guangzhou, China. The ICE was inside an air compressor which was among the items included in the container shipment. There were two persons taken into custody by federal and local law enforcement officers after retrieving the air compressor at a warehouse in As Lito.

The program manager attended the 2015 National Forum on Criminal Justice Conference sponsored by the National Criminal Justice Association in Atlanta, Georgia. The program manager attended the grants management Uniform Guidance-Updates to the CFR Part 200. In this session we were provided with an overview and updates to the new Uniform Guidance which became effective for new awards made on or after December 26, 2014. Highlights of the session included the changes to the former federal regulations and circulars including new definitions of terms, conflicts of interest, A-133 audits and modified cost principle definitions.

Another session attended was the Grants Management Building Partnerships with State and Local Entities. In this session, we learned about the grants administrative field that partnerships are essential to attaining success. We learned about the benefits of partnership with state and local entities and how we can leverage resources and create long lasting relationships.

Grants Management Fraud, Waste and Abuse was another session the program manager attended. In this session we learned that as grant administrators we are responsible for identifying fraud, waste and abuse of grant funds. We learned that by reducing or eliminating the risk of grant fraud schemes we are ensuring tax payer dollars are used effectively. We learned what is considered fraud, waste and abuse and what the penalties are once identified. We were given resources on how to develop internal grant fraud risk management and how to detect fraud indicators.

JUSTICE PROGRAM UPDATES

Coalition for Public Safety Launches National Tour

The Coalition for Public Safety held a briefing last week to announce the Fair Sentencing and Fair Chances National Tour. The goal of the tour is to build national support for reducing the prison population and removing barriers to ex-offenders living productive lives. "Support for reforming our nation's criminal justice system has generated extraordinary momentum in every part of the country, which is what inspired the Coalition to launch this effort. We want to unite people across the political spectrum and in states across the country, who are working to make our justice system smarter, fairer, and more cost effective," said Christine Leonard, executive director of the Coalition, in a [press release](#). "Reforming our system is a top national priority, and we want to showcase states where strong leaders are leading the charge for comprehensive, meaningful reform."

The first three stops are Illinois, Texas and Florida. On September 22, the Coalition will host a panel discussion in Chicago, "Making Illinois Smart on Crime: First Steps to Reduce Spending, Ease Offender Reentry and Enhance Public Safety." On October 8, the Coalition will travel to Austin to focus on Texas' record in reforming its criminal justice system and "how those efforts have trickled out among other states and how those reforms are now the model for many of the efforts at the federal level." The last stop, on October 27, will be in Tallahassee. The Coalition for Public Safety and the Florida State University Project on Accountable Justice will host a panel discussion on Florida's need for policy makers to support and monitor the Department of Corrections, as well as look to new and expanded ways to reduce jail and prison populations, cut costs, reduce recidivism, and remove barriers for those re-entering society.

Each of these panel discussions will be open to the public and will be available on the Coalition's [website](#).

Oregon: [Activist 'Ecstatic' Over New Definition of 'Victim'](#)

Spurred by the threat of a lawsuit from a victim and the National Crime Victim Law Institute, Oregon has expanded its definition of "victim" for purposes of parole. Previously, victims who were not part of the charges brought against the defendant had limited opportunity to be heard.

Under the new definition, the State Board of Parole can consider testimony from anyone the prosecuting attorney, the court, or the Board have determined to have been harmed by the defendant's crimes or related crimes.

Louisiana: [Dismissal Fees Levied by Some Louisiana DA's Offices Rankle Advocates for Victims of Domestic Violence](#)

In at least three parishes in Louisiana, if a victim wishes to sign a sworn affidavit explaining why they want to drop charges against someone, they must pay a \$100 fee. The majority of the people paying these fees are victims of domestic violence. Prosecutors, however, do not always drop the charges even when the victims pay the dismissal fee.

Military: [Air Force Increasing Support for Civilian Sexual Assault Victims](#)

Air Force civilian victims of sexual assault now have many of the same resources available to them as uniformed airmen. Previously, civilian victims stationed outside of the U.S. only had the option to file unrestricted reports, which would launch an investigation. Now, they have the option to file restricted reports, which do not launch an investigation but allow victims to receive medical treatment and mental health care.

Justice-Involved Young Adults

Recent advances in brain science confirm that the brain does not finish developing until a person is well into his or her 20s – much later than previously believed. As a result, young adults are more prone to risk-taking behavior and more susceptible to peer pressure than older adults.



International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Engaging Men & Boys

Washington, DC
March 22 - 24, 2016

SART Interactive Scenario

Pre-Conference

Washington DC
March 21, 2016

This training day will walk participants through the criminal justice process, from the initial report of a sexual assault, to the collection of forensic evidence, through the maze of the sexual assault investigation, all the way to trial. Participants will consist of Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) members, who will work as a group throughout the day. The format for this training will include a simulation demonstrating each stage of the criminal justice response, as well as facilitated discussion of key issues from a multi-disciplinary team of subject matter experts.