The National Association of Counties Criminal Justice Newsletter

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**NACo News**

NACo’s Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference – May 16-18, 2012
Registration for NACo’s 2012 Western Interstate Region Conference is now open. NACo’s Western Interstate Region Conference focuses on public lands and other issues critical to the western region of the United States. It provides county officials with the opportunity to hear speakers, discuss legislation, and network with other officials to exchange information on those issues. The event will be held in Santa Fe County (Santa Fe), NM from May 16-18. For more information and to register, please click [here](#) and select the Rural Housing Forum links on the right hand side, listed under “Conference Information”.

Creating Supportive Housing Initiatives in Your County Forum – June 7-8, 2012
Join NACo and CSH in Minneapolis, M.N. June 7th and 8th for a 1 ½ day forum to learn how your county can advance supportive housing initiatives for individuals involved in the criminal justice system. The forum will highlight how the Frequent Users Systems Engagement (FUSE) model and its three essential pillars – data driven problem solving, policy and systems reform, and targeted housing and services – can help communities break the cycle of incarceration and homelessness among individuals with behavioral health needs. For registration information and a copy of the draft agenda, please contact Meghan Levine at mlevine@naco.org.

NACo’s Annual Conference and Exposition – July 13-17, 2012
Registration for NACo’s 2012 Annual Conference and Exposition is now open. The event will be held July 13-17, 2012 in Alleghany County (Pittsburgh), PA. For more information and to register, please click [here](#).

**Justice Information on NACo Website**

Please visit the NACo website ([www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)) often for justice updates on webinars, publications, conferences and available technical assistance. The [Criminal Justice](#) page offers information and resources on juvenile justice, reentry and model programs, all focused on the local government roles in various justice issues. The [Jail Diversion](#) page offers information and resources on jail diversion, especially for people with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders in the justice system. For legislative information, please visit the [Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee](#) page and sign up for the [Legislative Bulletin](#), which gives the latest information on federal legislative activities and what they mean for counties.
Proposals to Keep Petty Criminals Out of Jail Advance in Maryland Legislature
On Thursday, March 1, emergency measures to provide better legal protections for the poor advanced in the Maryland House and Senate. These proposals could have wide-reaching effects on the state’s penal system and arose out of a Maryland Court of Appeals decision in January 2012. For more information, please click here.

Survey of Youth Offenders Shows State Reforms on Right Track, Group Says
According to a survey of over 100 youths at a Central Texas juvenile correctional facility, Texas appears to be on the right track when it comes to placing youth in the juvenile justice system closer to home. For more information, please click here.

Macomb County Prepares to Open Court for Vets
In lieu of jail or prison time, Macomb County’s Veterans Court, scheduled to start April 12, will allow military veterans charged with some crimes to obtain treatment for mental illness and substance abuse. The intensive 1-to-2 year program will also assist with issues of homelessness and unemployment. The Macomb Veterans Court will be among the first of its kind in Michigan. For more information, please click here.

Medical Records in Maricopa County Jails to go Electronic
On March 14, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed to develop an electronic medical-records system for the county’s inmate health-care organization. County officials hope the new system will modernize its jails’ record-keeping standards, maintain a central database of inmate information, and ease the processing of health information during intake. For more information, please click here.

A Rupture in the Youth Pipeline to Prison in Los Angeles
The Everychild Foundation, a Los Angeles grant making and advocacy women’s organization serving children, provided a $1-million grant to establish the new Everychild Restorative Justice Center. The Everychild Restorative Justice Center, overseen by Centinela Youth Services, is expected to direct 1,200 youth over the next three years into supportive, therapeutic, evidence-based services. For more information, please click here.

Forsyth County Begins Mental-Health Court to Help Defendants Get Treatment
On March 14, Forsyth County held its first mental-health court session, designed to assist people with mental illness who are also involved in the criminal justice system get treatment. The court will meet twice a month and will supervise a defendant’s compliance with recommended mental-health treatment programs for at least six months. For more information, please click here.

At D.C. Superior Court Program, a Focus on Helping Minors with Mental Health Problems
D.C.’s juvenile mental health diversion court, one of about a dozen similar courts around the country, is a 14-month-old juvenile court designed to hold minors with mental illness accountable for their actions while also helping them learn to accept their mental health diagnoses. For more information, please click here.

Gloucester County Schools United for Respect and Equality (SURE) Summit Addresses Social Issues Affecting Teens
Sponsored by Gloucester County’s freeholders, human services department, prosecutor’s office and municipal alliances as well as the Rowan University Office of the President, the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice and the Juvenile Justice Commission, the 11th annual SURE summit convened on March 15th with a theme of “Respect: The Universal Language.” At the summit, students attended workshops addressing various topics such as bullying, suicide, gender issues, and community involvement. For more information, please click here.
Rock County Program Supports Female Juvenile Offenders
The girls-only group, Developing and Inspiring Value Among Sisters, is one of the Rock County Juvenile Justice Division’s youth development and diversion programs. Formed in late 2011 to help address a perceived gap in gender-specific programming for girls, the program is designed to support girls’ cultural, emotional, intellectual, physical, relational, sexual, and spiritual development. For more information, please click here.

Outagamie County to Expand Court Treatment Programming
Outagamie County is planning to expand its alternative treatment efforts this year through the implementation of veterans and mental health court programs. County Executive Tom Nelson is convinced these, and other, alternative treatment programs will effectively improve the lives of participating offenders, while also saving county dollars. For more information, please click here.

Hennepin County Suburban Courts Security Measures Approved
At its suburban courts in Brooklyn Center, Minnetonka, and Edina, the Hennepin County Board has approved additional security measures, including walk-through portal weapons screening and wand screening. These measures are temporary as the county awaits the results of two separate analyses by the Hennepin County District Court and the Hennepin County Board. For more information, please click here.

Cameras to Roll in Madison County Courts
On Thursday, March 15th, the Illinois Supreme Court announced its unanimous decision to allow still and video cameras in courtrooms at the Criminal Justice Center in Edwardsville. For more information, please click here.

In Family Court, its ‘One Judge, One Family’
Upon the suggestion of a judicial task force, since 2000, Lancaster County family court judges have worked in two-person teams to provide consistency for families dealing with a range of divorce, custody, and support matters. Because judges are already familiar with the family appearing before them, this approach has simplified scheduling and has saved time. For more information, please click here.

First Defendants Graduate from L.A. County Veterans Court
On March 27th, Los Angeles County’s Veterans Court graduated its first class of seven. The court, which started in 2010, accepts veterans charged with felonies whose offenses are tied to mental health or substance abuse issues stemming from their military service. For more information, please click here.

Larimer County DUI Court Aims to Halt Revolving Door
Founded in 2010, Larimer County’s DUI Court couples high accountability with substance abuse treatment programs. As a result, according to Colorado Judicial Branch spokesman John Sarche, “People enrolled in the programs are staying in the community and being productive members of society instead of sitting in jail or prison.” For more information, please click here.

Cook County Jail Chess Program? Sheriff Tom Dart Hopes Inmates Can Learn From Game
Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart recently started a chess program at the Cook County Jail. The program, designed to teach inmates how to apply strategies of problem-solving and patience to their own lives, was recently visited by former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov and also counts Mikhail Korenman, longtime chess teacher and member of the United States Chess Federation Council, among its supporters. For more information, please click here.

Survey: Residents Prefer Rehabilitation over Jail Time
Mecklenberg County recently completed a randomized telephone survey of county residents intended to help inform Mecklenberg County’s criminal justice policies. Conducted by MarketWise Inc., the survey found that most residents preferred prevention, enforcement, and rehabilitation as ways to deal with crime rather than incarceration. For more information, please click here.
County Jail Outsourcing Inmates’ Medical Care
Earlier this year, Oneida County began using Correctional Medical Care Inc., a private provider, for medical services at its jail. Despite slightly higher costs, County Executive Anthony Picente said, “The initial cost variance will be overshadowed in terms of the long-term savings...and even short-term savings as we go forward.” For more information, please click here.

Alameda County Jail Bills Itself as Greenest in Nation, Unveils Own Electrical Grid
Santa Rita Jail, the fifth-largest county jail in the nation, recently unveiled a new electric grid allowing the jail to combine and store energy derived from its solar, wind, and fuel cell capability for use on its own electric grid. For more information, please click here.

Jail’s Drug-Education Program Saving County Money
The St. Clair County Jail’s residential substance abuse treatment program, which consists of ninety days of behavior therapy and education, allows for early release upon successful completion. In the last year, the early release provision has saved the county an estimated $724,620 in housing and dining fees. For more information, please click here.

Step Up Has Made a Difference in the County
The Tulare County Step Up gang-prevention program brought together stakeholders and local residents to create the Step Up Summit concept, which has resulted in the establishment of a number of youth centers and “safe zones” to increase the amount of programming available to youth, identify best practices to reduce gang violence, and tap into local resources. As a result, the Juvenile Detention Center’s bookings have decreased by approximately twenty-percent last year as compared to two years ago and many schools report declining rates of conflict, truancy, and bullying. For more information, please click here.

Technical Assistance

Linking Justice Involved Individuals with Supportive Housing Webinar
On May 10 from 2:00-3:15pm, the National Association of Counties is holding a free webinar on the Frequent Users Systems Engagement (FUSE) model. The FUSE model is used to help communities break the cycle of incarceration and homelessness among individuals with complex behavioral health challenges who are the highest users of jails, homeless shelters and other crisis services systems. This webinar will provide an overview of FUSE, how it can be expanded to other counties, and will outline its three essential pillars: data driven problem solving, policy and systems reform, and targeted housing and services. To register for this webinar and to learn more, click here.

Publications & Resources

Georgetown Public Policy Institute’s Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) and Robert F. Kennedy Children’s Action Corps (RFK) Release New Publication on Multi-System Youth
Georgetown Public Policy Institute’s Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) and Robert F. Kennedy Children’s Action Corps (RFK) recently released a new publication, Addressing the Needs of Multi-System Youth: Strengthening the Connection between Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. This paper aims to provide a framework jurisdictions can use in their efforts to better serve crossover youth known to both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems—commonly referred to as crossover or dually-involved youth. The paper was released at a symposium held at Georgetown University on March 1, 2012. For the full paper and additional resources from the symposium, please click here, or visit http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/resources.html.
Events & Conferences

Revamping Reentry to Apply the Risk and Needs Principle – May 7-8, 2012
An intensive training seminar in Reno, May 7-8, at John Ascuaga’s Nugget Resort Hotel will help elected officials and criminal justice professionals learn more about how to revamp reentry for successful outcomes. Sponsored by the International Community Corrections Association in partnership with the National Judicial College, the International Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology, and the Center for Health and Justice at TASC Inc., the conference will help counties check-out evidence-based sentencing and pretrial assessment using the risk and needs principle. Register now for ICCA’s multi-disciplinary conference designed to help criminal justice leaders with more cost effective sentencing. For more information and to view other upcoming events, please click here.

With a theme of “Turning to Science: Enhancing Justice, Improving Safety, Reducing Costs,” NIJ’s annual conference will take place at the Marriot Crystal Gateway in Arlington, VA from June 18-20. The conference highlights the role of research in determining what works, what doesn’t work, and what shows promise. For more information and to register for this conference, please click here.

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute, in partnership with the Juvenile Law Center, has announced an Information Sharing Certificate Program enabling leaders in child serving fields to overcome information sharing challenges in order to better serve youth known across multiple systems of care. Those interested in participating are encouraged to form a team from their jurisdiction to apply to the program prior to the June 28, 2012 application deadline. The event will be held from October 1-4, 2012 in Washington, DC. Thanks to the MacArthur Foundation, tuition subsidies are available for those with financial need. For more information and to apply, please visit http://cjjr.georgetown.edu and click on “Certificate Programs” or email CJJR at jjreform@georgetown.edu.

Legislative Update

NACo Board Member Testifies in Support of Local Government Priorities in Department of Justice Appropriations
Housing
On Thursday, March 22nd, Fairfax County, Virginia Supervisor and NACo Board Member, Gerald “Gerry” Hyland testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS). Supervisor Hyland’s testimony emphasized a number of NACo justice and public safety priorities and focused on sustaining funding for programs important to counties through the Department of Justice. For more information, please click here.

NACo Needs to Know

Does your county have any efforts or initiatives to assist individuals who have been incarcerated or who have been homeless with housing? Email Meghan Levine at mlevine@naco.org with your comments.

This newsletter was issued by the National Association of Counties.

For suggestions, comments, to be added or taken off of the list-serve, and additional information on NACo’s criminal justice programs, please contact Meghan Levine at mlevine@naco.org.

About NACo
The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation’s 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public’s understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, please visit www.naco.org.