

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

HB 215 Passed: HB 215 passed June 1 and designates June 15 as "Elder Abuse Awareness Day."

A Call for Reforming the Nation's Costly Pretrial Detention System: A chorus of critics from Attorney General Eric Holder on down assailed the money bail system in the United States at a two-day pretrial justice conference that ended yesterday in Washington, D.C. Many of the hundreds of thousands of inmates in county jails awaiting trial are accused non-violent, nonfelony offenders who are behind bars only because they can't afford to post the bail required to get out—often just a few hundred dollars, Holder said. The conference was sponsored by Holder's Justice Department, along with the nonprofit Pretrial Justice Institute, partly in memory of a similar event organized by Attorney General Robert Kennedy in 1964.

The jail system costs 9 billion taxpayer dollars annually, much of which could be saved by using recognized tools to measure the risks that a defendant will not return for required court appearances if released, Holder and other speakers contended.

Experiments in helping judges make better decisions on who can safely be released before trial are under way in several jurisdictions around the U.S., but the prevalent bail system based on money, in which insurance companies collect from defendants bail amounts set by judges in return for ensuring that the suspect returns to court are entrenched in most courts, "like a creature that will not die," complained Judge Truman Morrison of Washington, D.C. Morrison said the system is unscientific and that most

judges "guess" in setting bail figures. "It's utterly random," he said.

About two-thirds of the nation's 3,000 counties lack organized pretrial services programs that use evidence-based approaches to handling pretrial releases, said Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson, whose agency supported the conference. Attendees represented a broad swath of the criminal justice system, including prosecutors, defense attorneys, and jail administrators. They made a long list of suggestions to improve the system, including thorough evaluations of new pretrial detainees and better decisions by prosecutors on filing appropriate criminal charges earlier in the process.

Judge William Dressel, president of the Nevada-based National Judicial College, called for "transparent" decision making by judges--"letting the accused offender know what happened [in setting bail] and why it happened." A representative of the bail bond industry, Dennis Bartlett of the Virginia-based American Bail Coalition, appeared on one panel but did not speak in the conference's concluding session. Although funds for new criminal justice programs are scarce, some speakers suggested that the current economic picture should be an incentive to adopt more cost-efficient programs. "There is a moment here we should take advantage of," said Michael Jacobson, president of the Vera Institute of Justice, which advocates improved pretrial release programs. Jacobson urged advocates to focus public attention on "the unnecessary, harmful incarceration of people who can't afford" to gain release.

Source: <http://www.thecrimereport.org/news/inside-criminal-justice/2011-06-baile-conference>

Overrun by Guns: Before a bullet severed her spine on the Columbus' Near East Side last May, Alix Reese hoped to teach pre-school. She was "always on the go," as one friend put it. Now, she moves at a mechanical crawl in a motorized wheelchair that she maneuvers with her mouth, changing directions with puffs and sips of air. She hasn't given up on teaching, but a more-pressing goal is to breathe without the help of a machine.

Reese is 26, the innocent victim of an unsolved gang shootout at Atcheson and Trevitt streets. She is among thousands of gun violence victims in Ohio. A *Dispatch* analysis of state records found that in 2009 alone, law-enforcement officers in Ohio investigated 12,550 incidents in which a gun was present. That's about 34 per day.

Seventy-nine percent occurred in seven of the state's largest cities: Columbus, Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown, according to crime statistics submitted to the Ohio Department of Public Safety by 545 agencies covering 71 percent of Ohio's population.

Guns were used in 62 percent of all Ohio homicides in 2009, the most recent year for which statewide statistics are available; 41 percent of robberies; and 24 percent of aggravated assaults, which include shootings such as the one that left Reese paralyzed.

Source: <http://www.thecrimereport.org/news/articles/2011-05-overrun-by-guns>

TRAINING/RESOURCES

Free Grant Writing Seminars: OCJS is hosting free Grant Writing seminars in 2011. OCJS's grant trainings provide an overview of identifying grant sources, analyzing program objectives, creating a budget, seeking letters of support, and writing proposals. Federal and state grants available to criminal justice professionals are discussed. Attendees also

receive the OCJS publication, *Grant Writing: Identifying and Applying for Funding in a Competitive Market*. Trainings take place on the following dates: **June 16, July 21, August 18, September 22, October 12, November 7 and December 14**. Please visit http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/GrantTraining_2011.pdf to view class

titles. All trainings are held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Motorcycle Classroom, located at 1970 W. Broad St., Columbus, on the first floor. To download and print a training registration form, visit: http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/ocjs_TrainingForm.pdf

TRAINING/RESOURCES CONT.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes: This event is a walk to benefit Gracehaven House, a safe home of hop and healing to victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. Gracehaven's goal is to raise awareness around the issue of human trafficking. Both men and women are encouraged to participate in the walk.

When: Saturday, June 18

Where: The Mall at Tuttle Crossing, Dublin, Ohio.

For more information and to register, please visit www.gracehavenhouse.org or email info@gracehavenhouse.org.

Register Today! Meaningfully Engaging Law Enforcement in your Coalition Efforts (Webinar)
Wednesday, June 15 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm.

To register, click : <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/369059865>

The focus of this webinar is to help Ohio coalitions/groups develop and/or maximize their relationship with law enforcement.

R. J. Elrick, Sr. Program Manager for the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center (UDETC) will be presenting information on:

- How to assess your law enforcement agency's prioritization of underage drinking enforcement
- Understanding the culture of law enforcement including the language of law enforcement, their motivators and stressors, challenges they face, and suggested ways coalitions can identify and work through any barriers.

- How coalitions can increase both the motivation and capacity of law enforcement to effectively work with the coalition to address the underage drinking issue.

1.5 Prevention RCHs will be provided to those who attend the full length of the webinar. This webinar is FREE.

This webinar is brought to you by Drug-Free Action Alliance's Center for Coalition Excellence in partnership with ODADAS and PIRE's Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center.

Please contact Kristen Frederick (kfrederick@drugfreeactionalliance.org) with questions.

GRANTS/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Sexual Assault Services Act Program: The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is seeking letters of interest from 501(c) 3 organizations that meet the criteria listed below and are interested to receive funds through the Sexual Assault Services Act (SASA). These funds must be used to provide for direct services to survivors of sexual assault. NOTE: Under the federal legislation authorizing the SASA, government based agencies are not eligible to receive this money.

These funds are to be used to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment (e.g. accompanying victims to court, medical facilities, police departments, etc.) support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault, family and household members of victims, and those collaterally affected by the sexual assault.

Once the funding amount is known, agencies will be asked to identify which of the activities they will provide. Any combination of the activities may be selected that can be provided within the amount of funds and time available.

Funds will be distributed through a contract to each eligible agency to:

- * provide crisis services for up to \$4,000/month;
- * develop and distribute outreach materials for up to \$2,500 for the duration of the contract;
- * facilitate a six week support group for survivors of sexual assault for up to \$1,000/group, and
- * provide crisis training for staff and volunteers for up to \$2,000/training.

Grant funds cannot be used to support sexual assault forensic examiner projects or criminal justice activities (e.g. law enforcement, prosecution, courts, or forensic interviews)

Agencies currently received these funds need only submit a letter stating intent to participate in the new funding cycle. Agencies not currently

receiving these funds should submit verification of the criteria as listed below.

Criteria for funding:

- 1) Be an Ohio non-profit tax exempt organization as determined by Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code, with a current, valid letter of exemption (provide copy of letter).
- 2) Currently funded by the Office of Criminal Justice Services, Office of the Attorney General and/or the ODH (provide a copy of the notice of award).
- 3) Currently has a staff position within the agency funded at a minimum of 15 hours/week to provide rape crisis services to survivors to an identified geographic or specific population (provide name, job description, and qualifications and training to provide sexual assault crisis services for staff member filling this position).
- 4) Specify the population to be served and that your agency is most appropriate to provide sexual assault crisis services to that population. Only one agency serving the same population will be eligible for funding to serve that population. If more than one agency serving the same population indicates meeting the criteria for funding, the agency best able to document providing crisis services to survivors of sexual assault in that population will be deemed eligible. Populations may be geographic or may be community specific (for example, African American, Hispanic, Asian, deaf and hard of hearing, etc.) For example, in one county, one agency may be eligible to serve all residents of that geographic area, while another agency may be eligible to serve a specific population within that area. To be qualified to serve a specific population, the agency must document accessibility to and prior experience working with the community to be served.
- 5) Able to demonstrate publicity of rape crisis services in your agency outreach materials (provide description /examples of publicity).
- 6) Will agree to follow the ODH standards for rape crisis services and to meet all reporting requirements. Program reporting requirements are

through the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women and include detailed data on services provided by staff, as well as volunteers or interns coordinated/supervised by staff funded through SASP funds. Time spent on the reporting process CANNOT be charged to these funds. Staff will need to participate in an online training on the reporting requirements and will need to report electronically. For a copy of the ODH standards and/or to preview a copy of the report (due annually), contact Debra Seltzer at debra.seltzer@odh.ohio.gov (provide statement of agreement).

- 7) May NOT use these funds to supplant State or local funds. Funds must be used to offer sexual assault crisis services that would otherwise not be available in the community (provide acknowledgement).
- 8) Must have Affirmative Action Program Verification from the Ohio Department of Administrative Services. To register, go to <http://das.ohio.gov/Divisions/EqualOpportunity/AffirmativeActionProgram>

(Confirmation of submission is sufficient for the letter of interest but verification must be approved before a contract can be completed)

If your agency meets these criteria and would like to be issued a contract for services, please submit a letter confirming criteria as detailed above, along with agency contact information and federal tax ID number, on letterhead and signed by the agency director, and return by June 16, to:
Debra Seltzer, 614.564.2176 or debra.seltzer@odh.ohio.gov.

Once the exact number of eligible agencies have been identified, we will work with you to establish the amount of funds available and finalize contracts.

OCJS CONTACT

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