

## From Media to Practice

Glenn Martin

In an editorial response to a series of Associated Press articles entitled, *Expungement Laws Too Easy on Criminals* (<http://www.kentucky.com/mld/beraldleader/2005/05/31/news/opinion/11760803.htm>), Prosecutor Ray Larson ignores the benefit of offering limited expungement of arrests that did not lead to convictions and low level convictions to people who have shown evidence of rehabilitation. The lesson learned by reading his editorial is that there needs to be more public education around the importance of people with convictions finding and maintaining employment and that arrests that lead to favorable dispositions for defendants should be sealed. While Kentucky's expungement laws are being hotly debated in the media, the voice of reason is increasingly drowned out by the cries for increased punishment. Terms used in his editorial piece, such as "criminal-friendly" and "covering up" are inflammatory, misguided and do little to further the legitimate debate around public access to records versus the need to encourage successful reintegration for people with criminal justice involvement.

Recent research conducted by Princeton University confirms that there is a direct correlation between having a conviction record and reduced employment opportunities. In addition, the majority of people re-arrested are unemployed at the time of arrest. What Larson and other critics of this type of legislation have

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## A Message From the New HIRE Network Co-Directors

Glenn Martin and Roberta Meyers-Peebles

We are delighted to have been appointed Co-Directors of the National HIRE Network and we are eager to continue to build upon HIRE's success over the past four years ([To view the press release, click here](#)).

In 2001, the Legal Action Center launched the HIRE Network to be the primary national clearinghouse and technical assistance provider of information related to the employment of people with criminal records. Since then, HIRE has grown to a national membership of over 3,000 partners that include practitioners, government agencies and job seekers, among others, representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Brazil. In addition, we have successfully furthered the goals of many stakeholders to bring about public policy changes in their localities, states, and on the federal level. However, we still have a considerable amount of work to do.

HIRE's operating principles are to:

- Balance public safety and promote the reintegration of people with conviction records.
- Increase employment opportunities available to qualified people who are struggling to successfully reintegrate into society.
- Encourage employers to make individualized determinations about a person's specific qualifications, including the relevance of a criminal record, rather than having flat bans against hiring people with criminal records.

We will work vigorously to meet these objectives and fulfill HIRE's mission to increase the number and quality of job opportunities available to people with criminal records by improving employment practices and public policies, and changing public opinion. We look forward to your continued membership, participation, and support in our efforts to create fair and practical policies that do not penalize people with criminal records for the rest of their lives and allows qualified jobseekers with past criminal histories to obtain employment. ❖

consistently ignored is that the lifetime stigma attributed to an arrest and/or conviction does little to address the underlying reason for criminal behavior, and only fosters further alienation of people who are already described as living outside the bounds of society's laws. Furthermore, allowing an individual to seal a low-level conviction after 5 years, or in a case where the individual is found innocent is ultimately a way of increasing public safety and saving taxpayer dollars, and does not offer a safe haven for hard-core re-offenders, as Larson suggests. While some people with low-level convictions may re-offend, the net gain from opening the door to civic participation for most of this population far outweighs the actions of the few who will not take full advantage of the opportunity afforded through expungement.

Expungement laws, such as the one on the books in Kentucky, are not randomly voted into law without public debate. The law was passed to respond to the same issues that Larson uses to denounce the legislation: to expand employment opportunities for people with criminal justice involvement and to increase public safety. Surely Larson doesn't see the latter as a novel idea in a country where a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty. Why should a person who is accused of a crime, and subsequently found not guilty, suffer the same stigma as a person who was convicted of a crime. Or, if a person remains crime-free for five years, shouldn't he or she be given the opportunity to get past the stigma of a low-level conviction record and move toward full reintegration?

Larson's editorial goes on to point out that prosecutors will be "unable to focus on the repeat offenders, who account for 60 to 80 percent of crimes." While his statistics may be accurate in terms of who is rearrested, this premise doesn't support his argument against expungement. If he allows his own reasoning to play out, the conclusion would be that people who are prohibited from full-fledged participation in society after they are arrested and/or convicted tend to stay on a path to escalation of criminal behavior. Kentucky's law seeks to break this cycle by offering the most minor offenders a second chance at doing the right thing.

Kentucky's expungement and sealing laws increase employment opportunities and enhance public safety by addressing the fact that employers are much more likely to hire someone who does not have a record and are usually not inclined to take the time to make distinctions between arrests or seriousness of a conviction. ❖



## H.I.R.E. on the Hill

*Alexa Eggleston and Gabrielle de la Gueronniere*

### **The Workforce Alliance Holds its 2005 National Conference in Washington, D.C., Includes Panel on the Employment Barriers for People with Criminal Records**

On May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, The Workforce Alliance (TWA) held its 2005 national conference in Washington, DC, entitled "What's the Big Idea? Workforce Development Policy for the Next Four Years (and Beyond)." The conference featured several Federal officials as well as Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP), who received the Distinguished Leadership in Promoting Workforce Development in America Award. Other Awardees included Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Congressman Robert Andrews (D-NJ), neither of whom were present at the Conference. Emily Stover DeRocco, the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training in the U.S. Department of Labor and Sally L. Stroup, Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education both spoke about their respective agencies' goals and priorities for the next several years.

The conference featured several panels of specific interest to workforce developers and educators who are working with people with criminal records, including a workshop entitled From Prison to Work: Policy Opportunities for Improving Access to Workforce Development Services and Good Jobs for Individuals with Criminal Records. Other workshops focused on the Welfare/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, Emerging State Workforce Development Policy Innovation Models, and Creating Coherent Connections Between Workforce Development and Economic Development Policies.

In addition the conference briefed the participants on the status of congressional and Administration action on key federal laws, including TANF, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), the Higher Education Act (HEA), and the Perkins Technical and Vocational Education program.

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## Youth 'n' Justice

*This is the second edition of a quarterly column that highlights the activities of the youth reentry and employment project at the H.I.R.E. Network. If you have information you would like to share with our members on youth issues, particularly in the area of re-entry and employment, please send an email to our Equal Justice Works Fellow, Laurie Parise who oversees the project, at [lparise@lac.org](mailto:lparise@lac.org)*

In the past few years, the employment of individuals with criminal records has become a major priority for the nation. A national network of dedicated individuals and organizations are working together to find innovative ways to bring and keep this issue at the forefront of our national agenda. However, HIRE and other organizations working on youth reentry issues around the country have begun to collaborate to ensure that attention is also given to the needs of young people who have been involved with the juvenile or adult criminal justice system to obtain jobs.

HIRE has received numerous requests to speak at reentry conferences on youth issues. It is clear that the unique barriers that young people with criminal records face when seeking employment has truly become a concern for organizations serving youth around the country. HIRE recently presented at a national and local conference that focused on initiative and workforce development strategies that have been effective in helping young people who have been involved in the criminal justice system get employed. Below are highlights from these events.

### Transitional Jobs Conference

The 5th Annual National Transitional Jobs Conference: "Transitional Jobs: A Critical Reentry Employment Strategy," was held in Washington D.C. May 5-6, 2005. It was a major gathering of program operators, policymakers, researchers and attorneys active in the transitional jobs field. HIRE presented on a panel with Youth Opportunity Boston ("YO Boston") and YouthBuild USA in a session entitled, "Transitional Jobs for Young People Reentering from the Justice System," a discussion about successful programs and practices that assist youth in obtaining transitional or permanent employment when they reenter their communities after detention or incarceration.

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The Workforce Alliance (TWA) is a national coalition of local leaders advocating for federal policies that invest in the skills of America's workers--including those who are low-income, unemployed, or seeking advancement--so they can better support their families and help American businesses better compete within today's economy. For more information please visit TWA's website at [www.workforcealliance.org](http://www.workforcealliance.org).

### House Approves Legislation to Reduce Gang-Related Crime; Legislation Would Expand Existing Penalties, Impose Mandatory Minimum Sentences and Create Several New Gang Crimes

Last month, the U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation, H.R. 1279, aimed at reducing gang violence. The "Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act of 2005," introduced by Congressmen Randy Forbes (R-VA) and Rodney Alexander (R-LA) in March of 2005, would amend the United States Code to enhance several penalties for existing gang-related crimes and create several new gang crimes. Supporters of the legislation have argued that gangs are becoming more prevalent and that the government needs to respond with tough new federal laws. Opponents of the bill have countered that the effectiveness of mandatory minimum sentences is in question, and that this type of sentencing has a disproportionately severe impact on communities of color.

The House Judiciary Committee approved the Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act in early May. The full House then approved the legislation on May 11th, voting to pass it with a 279-144 vote. The measure received significant bipartisan support, with 208 Republicans and 71 Democrats voting to approve the legislation.

The legislation would:

- Establish mandatory minimum sentences for gang-related crimes; impose a sentence of life imprisonment or death for any gang-related crime that results in death, a sentence of 30 years to life in prison for kidnapping, aggravated sexual abuse or maiming; impose a sentence of 20 years to life in prison for an assault resulting in serious bodily injury; require that individuals convicted of any other gang crime receive a minimum sentence of 10 years in prison.

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YO Boston is a community service organization that focuses on the employment of young people reentering from juvenile justice and county jail facilities, through its job readiness program. The program includes job training and placement, resume writing, and interview skills. YO Boston was invited to highlight its success in connecting young people to educational and employment opportunities throughout the city of Boston. YO Boston has become an invaluable resource to businesses in Boston because their job-training program has increased the number of skilled entry-level workers, which has helped to drive the city's economic recovery. For more information about YO Boston and this local government initiative visit [www.cityofboston.gov/bra/yoboston](http://www.cityofboston.gov/bra/yoboston).

YouthBuild USA is a national youth organization that provides job training and leadership development. YouthBuild was invited to highlight one of its programs that supports unemployed and undereducated young people, many of whom have had past involvement in the criminal justice system, as they work towards their GED or high school diploma. YouthBuild provides on-the-job training through its construction program where the participants build affordable housing for homeless and low-income individuals. The session also featured a YouthBuild graduate, who serves on its board of directors. He spoke about the need for young people to "embrace leadership" and put aside their personal agenda in order to lead and be an example to others who have made mistakes and want to become productive members of their community. To learn more about YouthBuild USA and its programs visit [www.youthbuild.org](http://www.youthbuild.org).

HIRE's presentation included information about legal and practical barriers young adults with criminal records may face when seeking employment and how they might lessen, or in some cases alleviate, some of those barriers. We explained issues surrounding occupational licensing bars, certificates of rehabilitation, the importance of job seekers knowing and understanding their conviction history before a job interview, and knowing what employers can legally ask about criminal histories on a job interview. We emphasized the importance of working with employers and utilizing financial incentives that are available to them such as the federal bonding program, tax credits or other training funds through the Workforce Investment Act.

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- Classify a number of new offenses as "gang offenses," all of which carry mandatory minimum sentences.
- Change the definition of a criminal street gang by lowering the required number of people involved from five to three people, and eliminating the requirement that the people be involved in a "continuing series of offenses." Instead, a gang must engage in a minimum of two predicate gang crimes, one of which must be a crime of violence.
- Authorize the Attorney General to charge as an adult a juvenile who is 16 years or older and commits a crime of violence; the legislation also eliminates the requirement that the juvenile must have a prior felony offense before transferring him/her to adult court.

After being approved by the House, H.R. 1729 was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee where the legislation awaits review. Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) introduced additional legislation, S.155, aimed at reducing gang violence in the Senate earlier this year; this legislation also awaits review by the Senate Judiciary Committee. S.155, would also enhance penalties for certain gang-related crimes. However, this legislation differs from H.R. 1729 in that S. 155 would authorize funds for gang crime prevention programming and does not include mandatory minimum sentences. It is unclear whether the Senate will consider these pieces of legislation later this session, and when this review might begin. More information about both of these pieces of legislation can be found at: <http://thomas.loc.gov>. ❖

**Are you interested in submitting an article to H.I.R.E. Network News? Do you have a conference scheduled? Is your agency about to release an important study? We are always looking for input from our membership! We invite guest writers on a range of subjects. Please email Glenn Martin at [gmartin@hirenetwork.org](mailto:gmartin@hirenetwork.org) if you are interested in contributing to our newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you. ❖**



## Workforce Professionals Training Institute

HIRE participated in a full-day training in New York City at the Workforce Professional Training Institute (WPTI) entitled, "Youth and the Criminal Justice System – From Incarceration to Employment and Post Secondary Options – An Overview Course." The audience consisted of workforce development practitioners, social workers and policy makers throughout New York City who work with young people who have been involved in the criminal justice system.

HIRE provided an overview of the juvenile justice system in New York, explaining the challenges that a young person with a conviction record might face when seeking employment. We also presented our "Know Your Rights" manual for young people, which highlights the laws, policies and practices of New York State of which an individual should be aware when applying for a job. Practitioners who provide employment services to young people with criminal histories must have some knowledge and understanding of the juvenile and criminal justice systems in their state as well as the rights and obligations of job seekers to provide effective services.

Much of the session was spent explaining the three different types of youthful adjudications in New York. This is an important distinction, as the type of adjudication will affect the way in which a young person answers questions regarding conviction history on an employment application. For example, in New York a young person under the age of sixteen can be adjudicated a juvenile delinquent, and between the ages of sixteen and nineteen can be adjudicated a youthful offender or juvenile offender. Juvenile delinquent and youthful offender adjudications by law are not considered convictions and therefore a young person with these types of adjudications can respond, "no" if an employer asks if they have ever been convicted. On the other hand, a juvenile offender adjudication is considered a conviction and a young person adjudicated as such must reveal this to an employer, if asked about his/her conviction history.

Louis Miceli, Director of the WPTI, led a discussion on youth development and leadership, and strategies to keep youth engaged in school, programs or employment. The discussion was focused on challenges and priorities practitioners in the youth employment field experience and offered solutions to mitigate some these challenges, as well as best practices concerning youth engagement and program retention.

Events such as the Transitional Jobs Conference and the Workforce Professional Training Institute provide a venue for practitioners to engage in thoughtful and lively discussions about their work and the populations they serve. In order for individuals and organizations to better serve the needs of young adults involved with the criminal justice system who

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## Funding Opportunities!

### Employment and Training Administration Announces Availability of Grant Funding Under Responsible Reintegration of Youthful Offender Program

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has announced the availability of approximately \$15 million in Responsible Reintegration of Youthful Offender grant funds to address the specific workforce challenges of youth offenders and to utilize strategies that prepare them for new and increasing job opportunities in high-growth/high-demand and economically vital industries and sectors of the American economy. Projects funded under this competition will be consistent with both the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative and the Department of Labor's Youth Vision.

To view the RFP, see: <http://www.doleta.gov/sga>.

### Department of Labor Announces \$1 Million for Grants for Grassroots Organizations

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA), a division of the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has announced the availability of \$1,000,000 in grants to eligible "grassroots" organizations with the ability to connect to the local One-Stop delivery system.

The \$1,000,000 comes from the FY 2005 appropriation for One-Stop/America's Labor Market Information System. The agency expects to award approximately 40-50 grants. The grant amount for each grassroots organization is expected to range between \$20,000 and \$25,000. The period of performance will be 12 months from the date of execution by the Department.

Details of the grant announcement can be found in the Federal Register at:

<http://a257.gakamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-5907.htm>

### Department of Labor Announces Grant Opportunity for Workforce Investment Boards to Build Partnerships Between Faith-Based and Community Organizations and Local One-Stop Delivery Systems

The Department of Labor's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), have announced the

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seek employment, we must continue to have dialogue with each other and share ideas and strategies that will support the development of youth as leaders and successful participants in our workforce system. To learn more about the sponsoring organizations mentioned above, visit:

[www.transitionaljobs.net](http://www.transitionaljobs.net)

[www.workforceprofessionals.org](http://www.workforceprofessionals.org). ❖

## Upcoming Conferences of Interest

**July 17-22, 2005**

**National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice 32<sup>nd</sup> Conference and Training Institute: "Committed to the Cause of Justice and the Spirit of Unity"**

Adams Mark Hotel

Dallas, TX

Tel: 919-683-1801

**July 18-20, 2005**

**NIJ Annual Research and Evaluation Conference**

JW Marriott Hotel

Washington, DC

Contact: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij>

**July 24-27, 2005**

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual American Probation and Parole Association Training Institute**

Marriott Marquis

New York City, NY

Contact: <http://www.appa-net.org/Training%20and%20Tech%20Assistance/callfor1.htm>

**August 6-8, 2005**

**American Correctional Association 2005 Conference**

Baltimore Convention Center

Baltimore, MD

Contact: <http://www.appa-net.org>

Tel: 301-918-8198

**September 11-14, 2005**

**National TASC Conference on Drugs and Crime Developing Safe and Healthy Communities: Recover, Reenter, Restore**

Renaissance Cleveland Hotel

Cleveland, OH

Contact: [www.NationalTASC.org](http://www.NationalTASC.org)

**September 18-21, 2005**

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Addiction and Criminal Behavior**

Marriott Downtown Hotel

St. Louis, MO

Contact: GWC, Inc.

Tel: 800-851-5406

Email: [info@gwcinc.com](mailto:info@gwcinc.com)

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availability of up to \$5 million in grants to eligible Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) that have successfully demonstrated the ability to form working partnerships with grassroots faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs). Grassroots FBCOs may include faith-based and community based organizations, minority organizations, minority-led or immigrant-led non-profit or community development organizations and/ or other small non-profit organizations.

To view the Grant Application, see: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-6022.htm>

### **VETS Announces Availability of Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program; Local Boards and Faith-Based Organizations in Large Urban Areas Encouraged to Apply**

The Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) within the Department of Labor has announced a grant competition under the Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001. The grants will be awarded to organizations that provide job training, counseling, and placement services (including job readiness, literacy training, and skills training) to expedite the reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force.

To view the grant announcement, see: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-6132.htm>

### **\$2.4 Million Available for Jail Diversion Grant Programs**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced the availability of FY 2005 funds for Targeted Capacity Expansion Grants for Jail Diversion programs to divert individuals with mental illness from the criminal justice system into community-based, integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment and appropriate support services.

It is expected that approximately \$400,000 will be available per grantee in Fiscal Year 2005 and will fund six grants for up to three years. These grants will promote the transformation of systems to improve services for justice-involved adults with mental illness. The grants will be administered by SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services. Applications for No. SM-05-011 are available by calling SAMHSA's clearinghouse at 1-800-729-6686, or by downloading the application from [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

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**October 8-11, 2005**

**7th National Conference on Preventing Crime: Power of Prevention**

Hilton Washington  
Washington, DC

Contact: <http://www.ncpc.org/pop>

**October 11, 2005**

**2005 Ohio Criminal Justice Reentry Conference: Theory and Application of Evidence Based Practices in Criminal Justice**

The Midwest Hotel and Conference Center  
Columbus, OH

Contact: <http://www.drc.state.oh.us/web/conference.asp>

**October 11-13, 2005**

**Collaboration between Fatherhood and Domestic Violence Programs in Communities of Color: A Focus on Prevention**

Wyndham St. Anthony Hotel  
San Antonio, TX

Contact: [lmedaris@cffpp.org](mailto:lmedaris@cffpp.org)

**October 15-19, 2005**

**11th Annual National Workshop on Adult & Juvenile Female Offenders: "Clearing the Path for Girls and Women: A Call for Action"**

Minneapolis Marriott Airport Hotel  
Bloomington, MN

Contact: <http://www.doc.state.mn.us/ajfo>

**October 28-30, 2005**

**Transition of Prisoners, Inc. 4th Annual National Prisoner Re-Entry Conference: "Refreshing the Fire"**

Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel  
Nashville, TN

Tel: 313-875-3883 x27

Contact: [www.topinc.net](http://www.topinc.net)

**November 2-5, 2005**

**National Network of Sector Partners 2005 National Conference: "Bridges to Prosperity: Building the Economy Through Partnerships and Innovation"**

Drake Hotel  
Chicago, IL

Contact: [www.nedlc.org/nmsp](http://www.nedlc.org/nmsp)

Tel: 510-251-2600 ext. 130 ❖

**President's Prisoner Reentry Initiative: DOL Announces \$19.8 Million in Funding for Faith-Based and Community Organizations; Expects Awards for 30 Communities: RFP Important Updates: President's Prisoner Reentry Initiative Grant Modification.**

\* Grant -

<http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/DOL/OGCM/OGCM/SGA-DFA-PY-04-08/Grant.html>

\* Modification 1 -

<http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/DOL/OGCM/OGCM/SGA-DFA-PY-04-08/Modification1.html>

\* Full Announcement -

[http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/DOL/OGCM/OGCM/SGA-DFA-PY-04-](http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/DOL/OGCM/OGCM/SGA-DFA-PY-04-08/Attachments.html#upload4395)

[08/Attachments.html#upload4395](http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/DOL/OGCM/OGCM/SGA-DFA-PY-04-08/Attachments.html#upload4395)

\* Revised Full Announcement 1 -

[http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/DOL/OGCM/OGCM/SGA-DFA-PY-04-](http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/DOL/OGCM/OGCM/SGA-DFA-PY-04-08/Attachments.html#upload4461)

[08/Attachments.html#upload4461](http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/DOL/OGCM/OGCM/SGA-DFA-PY-04-08/Attachments.html#upload4461)

\* Revised Full Announcement 2 -

[http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/DOL/OGCM/OGCM/SGA-DFA-PY-04-](http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/DOL/OGCM/OGCM/SGA-DFA-PY-04-08/Attachments.html#upload4565)

[08/Attachments.html#upload4565](http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/DOL/OGCM/OGCM/SGA-DFA-PY-04-08/Attachments.html#upload4565) ❖



***Hot Off the Press:  
Recent Reports***

**"Adult Drug Courts: Evidence Indicates Recidivism Reductions and Mixed Results for Other Outcomes,"** by the U.S. General Accountability Office (GAO)(March 2005). GAO conducted a systematic review of drug court program research, from which it selected 27 evaluations of 39 adult drug court programs that met its criteria for, among other things, methodological soundness. This report describes the results of that review of published evaluations of adult drug court programs, particularly relating to (1) recidivism outcomes, (2) substance use relapse, (3) program completion, and (4) the costs and benefits of drug court programs. To view the report, visit <http://www.gao.gov/htext/d05219.html>.

**New Resources Available to States Exploring Strategies to Connect People with Mental Illness Released from Prison and Jail to Medicaid,** by the Council of State Governments (CSG) (May 2005). New resources to help policymakers address soaring corrections and correctional health care costs and reduce recidivism among people with mental illness were released by CSG. The new documents profile efforts in four states— Texas,

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## Youth 'n' Justice FYI: Communities Respond to Youth Gangs in America

On August 11, 2005, at 1:30 p.m. (EST), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) will air the 90-minute satellite videoconference, "Communities Respond to Youth Gangs in America." The videoconference, which may be viewed online, will feature community programs and strategies that effectively address the youth gang problem. It will explore strategies to leverage existing resources, provide examples of partnerships across disciplines, highlight innovative strategies, and share information on faith-based responses. To access further information and register online, visit <http://www.trc.eku.edu/jj>. Please address questions to Jenny McWilliams at [ekujjtap@aol.com](mailto:ekujjtap@aol.com) or call 859-622-6671. ❖

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Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and New York—to promote continuity of care for this population by ensuring their prompt enrollment in Medicaid and SSI/SSDI upon release. To view these new resources, visit <http://www.consensusproject.org/infocenter/news/may-2005/benefits-reentry-publications>.

**"Thinking About Prison and its Impact in the Twenty-first Century,"** a journal article by Marc Mauer, Assistant Director of the Washington, D.C.-based Sentencing Project (May 2005), has been published in the Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law. The essay provides an overview of the collateral consequences of mass imprisonment, calling attention to the ways in which our understanding of the impact of prison on society is different than in previous times. This includes an assessment of barriers to reintegration for people with felony convictions, and the impact of imprisonment on families and communities, public safety, democratic life, and economics. To view the article, see [http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/osjcl/issue2\\_articles/OSU-Reckless-PDF-3-17-05.pdf](http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/osjcl/issue2_articles/OSU-Reckless-PDF-3-17-05.pdf).

**"The Gender-Responsive Strategies Project: Jail Applications,"** a bulletin by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) (May 2005). This bulletin contains current research about women offenders and strategies for evaluating current operating procedures related to women. Sections of the bulletin include: introduction; women in jail -- their numbers and characteristics; the Gender-Responsive Strategies project -- approach and findings; six gender-responsive guiding principles -- implications for jail administrators; jail classification and gender-responsive strategies for implementation in a jail setting; challenges and how to overcome them; parity and equity in programming; next steps; improving jail operations -- how jail administrators benefit from considering gender-responsive strategies. To read the bulletin, see <http://www.nicic.org/Library/020417>.

**"A World Apart: Women, Prison and Life Behind Bars,"** by Cristina Rathbone (June 2005), an investigative journalist and Soros Justice Fellow. In this book she follows four women serving time in a women's prison outside of Boston as they grapple with life behind bars and the impact of incarceration on their families. For more information, visit <http://www.soros.org/initiatives/justice/events/women-20050427>. ❖