



ALASKA JUSTICE FORUM

A PUBLICATION OF THE JUSTICE CENTER

Spring 2010

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Vol. 27, No. 1

Sex Offenders in the Alaska Juvenile Justice System

André B. Rosay and Ronald S. Everett

This article looks at the characteristics of 29 juvenile sex offenders at the McLaughlin Youth Center (MYC) who participated in the sex offender treatment program and were released during the period July 1, 2004 – June 20, 2007. All of the 29 juvenile sex offenders (hereafter referred to as “MYC sex offenders”) were male, and no offender was excluded from the following analysis. Data for the analysis were retrospectively obtained after the youth turned 18 years of age from the statewide juvenile offender management information system (JOMIS). For each youth, we examined their delinquency history up to age 18. This article summarizes the demographic characteristics of each youth and their involvement in delinquent behaviors.

Sex Offender Race

Most offenders were White (38%), Native (35%), or multiracial (21%) (Table 1). Native offenders (N = 10), multiracial offenders (N = 6), and other minority offenders (N = 1) were vastly over-represented. In particular, 8 percent of male youth (age 0 to 17) in Alaska are Native, but 35 percent of MYC sex offenders were Native. Similarly, 9 percent of male youth (age 10 to 17) in Alaska are multiracial, but 21 percent of MYC sex offenders were multiracial. In

Table 1. Race of McLaughlin Youth Center Sex Offenders

Column percentages.

Race	MYC sex offenders		Males in Alaska (age 10 to 17)		Rate of institutionalization per 1,000 youth	Relative rate index
	N	%	N	%		
White	11	37.9 %	11,527	66.3 %	1.0	—
Black	0	0.0	1,148	6.6	0.0	0.00
Native	10	34.5	1,395	8.0	7.2	7.51
Asian	1	3.4	1,018	5.9	1.0	1.03
Pacific Islander	0	0.0	255	1.5	0.0	0.00
Other minority	1	3.4	406	2.3	2.5	2.58
Multiracial	6	20.7	1,632	9.4	3.7	3.85
Total	29		17,381			

Source of data: Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice & U.S. Census

contrast, 66 percent of male youth (age 10 to 17) in Alaska are White and 38 percent of MYC sex offenders were White. In looking at all male youth in Alaska, the rate of institutionalization for sex offenses was 7.51 times higher for Native youth than for White youth, 3.85 times higher for multiracial youth than for White youth, and 2.58 times higher for other minority youth than for White youth.

Referral and Adjudication

For each youth, we tabulated the number of referrals and adjudications up to age 18. Youth are referred to the Division of Juvenile Justice by law enforcement agencies when there is probable cause that they committed an offense which would be criminal if

committed by an adult, committed a felony traffic offense, or committed an alcohol offense after two prior convictions in District Court for minor consuming. Some referrals lead to an adjudication—a finding of guilt (for additional details on the juvenile justice process, see the Winter 2010 issue of the *Alaska Justice Forum*). The lifetime number of referred charges for both sex and non-sex offenses varied from a low of one to a maximum of 46, with a mean of nine referred charges per youth ($s = 8.5$). (The total number of charges referred to the Division of Juvenile Justice for the 29 MYC sex offenders at age six to 17 is shown in Table 2.) Over half (55%) of the 29 MYC sex offenders had eight or fewer referred charges from age six

Please see Sex offenders, page 7

Table 2. Total Number of Charges, Age 6–17

Column percentages.

Number of charges	Referred			Adjudicated		
	N	%	cum %	N	%	cum %
One	1	3.4 %	3.4 %	2	6.9 %	6.9 %
Two	3	10.3	13.8	10	34.5	41.4
Three	5	17.2	31.0	1	3.4	44.8
Four	0	0.0	31.0	2	6.9	51.7
Five	2	6.9	37.9	8	27.6	79.3
Six	1	3.4	41.4	0	0.0	79.3
Seven	2	6.9	48.3	3	10.3	89.7
Eight	2	6.9	55.2	1	3.4	93.1
Nine	1	3.4	58.6	0	0.0	93.1
Ten or more	12	41.4	100.0	2	6.9	100.0
Total	29			29		

Source of data: Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice

Table 3. Total Number of Sex Offenses, Age 6–17

Column percentages.

Number of sex offenses	Referred			Adjudicated		
	N	%	cum %	N	%	cum %
Zero	1	3.4 %	3.4 %	3	10.3 %	10.3 %
One	10	34.5	37.9	16	55.2	65.5
Two	7	24.1	62.1	7	24.1	89.7
Three	3	10.3	72.4	0	0.0	89.7
Four	4	13.8	86.2	1	3.4	93.1
Five	1	3.4	89.7	2	6.9	100.0
Six	2	6.9	96.6	0	0.0	100.0
Seven or more	1	3.4	100.0	0	0.0	100.0
Total	29			29		

Source of data: Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice

A Look at Chronic Inebriate Housing in Seattle

Sharon Chamard

The issue of the chronically homeless, which includes hard-to-house subpopulations, is a common problem in cities across the U.S. A new way of addressing this problem was first developed about 25 years ago and is called Housing First. Housing First provides housing for chronically homeless people in their own permanent housing units at the very outset, rather than initially treating their underlying problems (e.g., substance abuse, mental illness, etc.) to make them "housing ready." The concept of this type of housing was developed in the late 1980s with a series of projects in several U.S. cities; the term "Housing First" was originally used beginning around 2000. The Pathways to Housing project, implemented in New York City in 1992, was the first to focus specifically on homeless substance abusers with psychiatric disabilities.

The Housing First approach has met with success. In San Francisco, for example, over a 3-year period the use of Housing First resulted in a 41 percent drop in the number of people living on the streets. Over 1,000 units of "permanent supportive housing" were established, and 95 percent of those who moved into the units remained housed. New York experimented with placing chronically homeless people with severe mental illness into supportive housing. This led to significantly fewer visits to emergency rooms,

Editor's Note

In early 2010, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) sponsored three trips to Seattle for decision-makers, service providers, and community members to visit with staff from the Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC), which runs 1811 Eastlake, a property that is described by DESC as the nation's "purest expression" of the Housing First philosophy (see article). AMHTA's goal in funding these trips was to expose Alaskans to this type of supportive housing, particularly a project that focuses on the chronic alcohol-addicted population. Their larger focus was on exploring supportive

psychiatric wards, shelters, and jail. Overall, about 95 percent of the cost of providing the housing was made up for by reductions in public service expenditures.

In a 2009 study that matched Seattle residents of permanent housing with non-housed chronic public inebriates, researchers found that the residents drank less over time, had fewer visits to the hospital emergency room and jail, and spent fewer nights at the homeless shelter or sobering center. In the course of a year, the median monthly cost of services per individual dropped from just

housing in general for AMHTA beneficiaries: people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, chronic alcoholism, and Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

This article is a report by Sharon Chamard, Associate Professor at the Justice Center, on her observations during a facility tour in March this year. She was invited to tour 1811 Eastlake because she is president of the Fairview Community Council. AMHTA is providing partial funding to implement permanent housing for chronic inebriates in the Fairview neighborhood. (See "Proposed Housing First in Anchorage.")

over \$4,000 to under \$1,000. It is estimated that housing these 75 individuals resulted in a savings of \$4 million in just one year (See "For Further Reading"—Larimer, et al., 2009).

One of the most intensively evaluated Housing First facilities is 1811 Eastlake in Seattle. This facility is run by the Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC), one of the largest providers of psychiatric services in Washington state. 1811 Eastlake is located in the Denny Triangle area of Seattle (south of Lake Union) and permanently

Proposed Housing First in Anchorage

RurAL CAP is an Anchorage-based, private, statewide, non-profit organization founded in 1965, with a focus on providing services to low-income Alaskans. RurAL CAP proposes to follow a Housing First model and convert the Red Roof Inn on Karluk Street and E. 5th Avenue in Anchorage into 48 efficiency apartments for chronic inebriate homeless persons. The facility would be called Karluk Manor, and would be the first project in Anchorage based on Housing First principles. (See related article on Housing First in Seattle.)

Partial funding for the project is through the State of Alaska Special Needs Housing Grant program and is administered through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) as a partnership of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA), AHFC, and the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. RurAL CAP is the grantee. Other sources of funding are AHFC Section 8 vouchers, and for the first time in Alaska, U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) project-based vouchers, which remain with the project rather than being attached to the tenant. Residents will also be charged a minimum of \$50 per month for rent or 30 percent of their gross income, whichever is greater.

According to RurAL CAP's Karluk Manor Management

Plan, RurAL CAP will be responsible for the project development, operation, and facilitation of residential supportive services. RurAL CAP has partnered with other local and statewide housing and service provider agencies in this venture. Residential support will include, among other items: 24-hour staffing, referral services, meals, and transportation for residents. Disruptive behavior will be prohibited. Additional requirements are listed in detail in the management plan.

According to RurAL CAP, the average cost for housing a resident at Karluk Manor is estimated to be \$21,271 per year, in contrast to the estimated average yearly cost of \$60,612 the Anchorage community currently pays for providing services for each homeless chronic inebriate.

On March 2, 2010, the Assembly approved an ordinance for severe alcohol-dependent housing (AO 2010-3) which requires conditional use approval through the Planning and Zoning Commission. RurAL CAP has applied for a conditional use permit, and the public hearing is scheduled for July 19, 2010.

A copy of the application for the conditional use permit and the Karluk Manor Management Plan are available at <http://www.muni.org/Departments/Planning/Documents/Karluk%20Manor.pdf>.

— Barbara Armstrong, Editor

houses 75 chronically homeless alcoholics, most of whom are end-stage alcoholics and experience mental illness in some degree. Forty percent of residents have a non-situational mental illness, such as alcohol-related dementia or bipolar disorder.

1811 Eastlake opened in 2005. It cost \$11.6 million to begin the project, including purchasing the land and constructing the building. Annual operating costs of 1811 Eastlake are about \$1 million (or \$1,120 per person per month), and reflect the intensive level of staffing, including a full-time on-site Registered Nurse (RN), and five clinical social workers. The facility operator, DESC, is one of the largest providers of psychiatric services in Washington State. It operates nearly 600 units of supportive housing in seven facilities, an emergency shelter with 279 beds, and state-licensed mental health and substance abuse treatment programs serving 1,000 clients. DESC employs 310 people and has an operating budget of \$20 million. Only five percent of this budget comes from charitable giving. Funding for 1811 Eastlake comes in part from the City of Seattle; the rest is from rent payments from residents, who pay 30 percent of their income. Most of this income comes from various forms of social assistance, such as SSI (Supplemental Security Income) or SSD (Social Security Disability). In addition, one-third of residents have Section 8 housing subsidies. One of DESC's major focuses is connecting residents to appropriate governmental benefits.

1811 Eastlake is not a treatment facility—it is an example of supportive housing that employs a harm reduction model with an intensive level of services for residents. DESC's stated goal is "to improve the lives of its residents through reduced alcohol consumption, better health care, and increased stability. It will also reduce residents' use of the community's crisis response system, reduce public nuisances and encourage residents to undertake and follow through with alcohol treatment" (www.desc.org/1811.html).

Residents are not required to take substance abuse treatment or avail themselves of any other services. While services are available for those who want them, the residents are essentially tenants, with the same rights and responsibilities as tenants elsewhere. Residents are expected to adhere to a "good neighbor" policy, but essentially the only grounds for eviction are fighting and failing to assign funds for rent.

Alcohol is not provided to residents, although this is done in other Housing First projects, most notably in Canada. At 1811 Eastlake, residents purchase their own alcohol. They are taken by van to grocery stores

and warehouse stores to buy food, alcohol, and other goods, and about half of the residents voluntarily participate in a managed alcohol distribution program through which staff members dispense to a resident upon request the alcohol that has been purchased.

One-third of the 75 units are cubicles. The rest are private rooms, each with a bathroom and efficiency kitchen with a stove, sink, and small refrigerator. As a safety measure to prevent cooking fires and burned food, the stoves only operate for a limited period of time before they must be reset. Residents are responsible for keeping their own rooms clean, though some need help with housekeeping skill development.

The on-site Registered Nurse and five clinical social workers are termed Clinical Support Specialists (CSS) and work individually with residents to develop residential service plans. Such a plan details problems and challenges, and how they will be addressed using the resident's strengths. Residential service plans are reviewed every 90 days. These on-site social workers differentiate 1811 Eastlake from other Housing First projects, which typically have visiting case workers available during limited office hours. On-site staff have greater availability to engage and interact with residents, most of whom rarely seek help on their own. The social workers at 1811 Eastlake use "assertive engagement" wherein they seek out residents and draw them in. Residents are not forced into treatment (which is in fundamental opposition to the Housing First philosophy). Treatment providers seek to attract residents into treatment programs by demonstrating how the providers and their services can be useful to them.

Along with the social workers and RN, there are also two or three Residential Counselors (RC) on duty at any time. The

RCs carry out functions related to security, rule enforcement, crisis intervention, and counseling. 1811 Eastlake makes no rigid distinction between staff positions. RCs, in their routine contacts with residents, see things that are critical to the CSSs' understanding of their clients, and by sharing information with the CSSs the team can provide comprehensive integrated care. In some Housing First programs, two different organizations staff the RC and CSS positions, or else two distinct branches of the same organization are assigned to do this.

This facility in the Denny Triangle area is located in a diverse, primarily commercial neighborhood bordered on two sides by the I-5 freeway and an overpass. According to DESC's Executive Director, Bill Hobson, stable neighborhoods are preferable for a facility like 1811 Eastlake. Locating such housing in areas with a concentration of social problems that contribute to chronic substance abuse would not be as effective. To develop social stability, individuals need to be in a stable environment.

1811 Eastlake is one example of the Housing First philosophy in Seattle. The construction and maintenance of this facility and other affordable housing in Seattle is partly supported by a housing levy. Recently passed by 63 percent of voters, the levy adds \$3.60 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, and will raise \$145 million over the next seven years. In addition, in King County there is a one-tenth of one percent sales tax (on top of the existing sales tax) that is directly applied to fund services for those with substance abuse problems and mental illness. This tax is expected to bring in \$54 million annually. DESC and 1811 Eastlake both receive funds from these sources.

Sharon Chamard is an Associate Professor of the Justice Center.

For Further Reading

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- Swope, Christopher (2005). "A Roof to Start With." *Governing* 19(3):38-42. Seattle Office of Housing: Housing First. www.seattle.gov/housing/homeless/HousingFirst.htm.
- National Alliance to End Homelessness. www.endhomelessness.org. This website has extensive nationwide homelessness data, pending legislation summaries, and other resources.

Recovery Act Funds: Justice Projects in Alaska

Recovery Act funds awarded by federal agencies have been flowing into Alaska. A little over a year after the February 2009 signing of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Alaska has been allocated a projected \$1.6 billion dollars for over 1,000 projects funded by 24 federal agencies. Included in the stimulus package for Alaska are funds administered by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) totaling \$18,906,593.00 for 39 justice-related projects in 22 rural and urban communities statewide (Figure 1).

The data in this article are based on Department of Justice figures from the

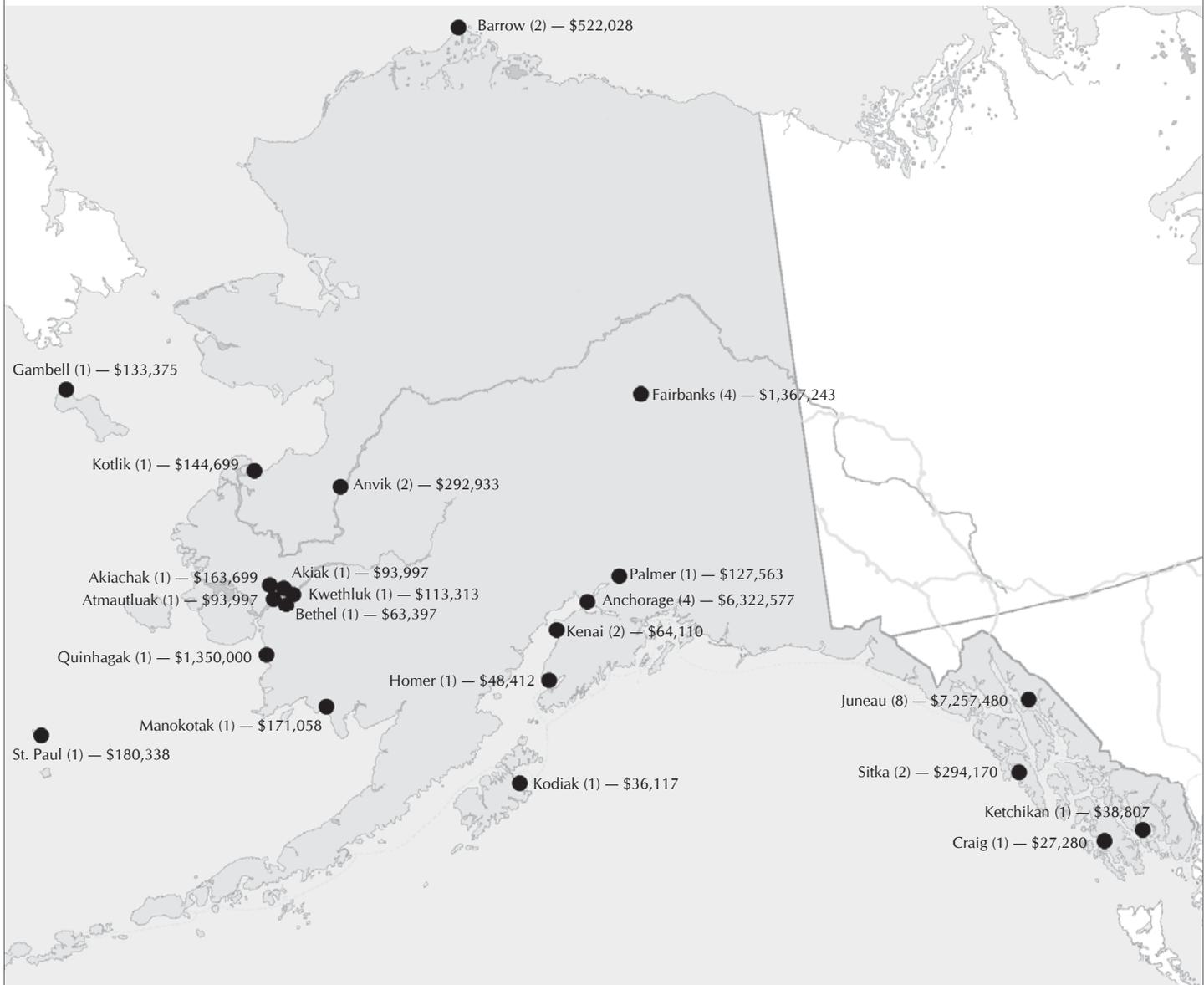
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as of February 11, 2010. The FBI is the agency responsible for investigating charges of fraud, waste, or abuse involving ARRA funds and has the most detailed list of Alaska projects. ARRA figures are updated regularly at www.recovery.gov.

The stimulus money is awarded in the form of grants, contracts, and loans, and recipients are required to report quarterly on how the money is being spent. All awards in Alaska as of February 11, 2010 have been grants. DOJ has awarded funds in response to grant applications from state agencies; Native tribes, villages, and councils; mu-

nicipalities; and nonprofits (Table 1). ARRA funds through DOJ have been designated for a range of projects such as purchasing police surveillance, finger printing, computer, and communications equipment; training law enforcement personnel and providers of services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; hiring law enforcement personnel (state troopers, local police, school resource officers); and constructing facilities, including a multi-purpose justice center in a rural community. A number of these projects are funded under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). Providing resources and services to crime victims, including vic-

Figure 1. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds in Alaska Administered by U.S. Department of Justice

Summarized by total number of projects and total funding.



Source of data: Federal Bureau of Investigation, February 2010

tims of domestic violence and sexual assault (DV/SA), is one focus of VOCA funding. Employment training for DV/SA victims as well as transitional housing for domestic violence victims is planned for a rural community. Hiring and training personnel to

provide direct services to DV/SA victims statewide is also being funded.

The majority of the projects are intended for completion within two years; as of February 2010, most projects were less than 50 percent complete, and 11 had not

yet been started.

Note: The FBI requests that individuals report suspected abuse, fraud or waste related to ARRA funds to 907-276-4441/anchoragefbi@ak.net, or to the FBI Alaska website <http://anchorage.fbi.gov/>.

Table 1. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds in Alaska Administered by U.S. Department of Justice as of February 11, 2010

As of February 2010, most projects were less than 50% complete, and 11 had not yet been started.

Location	Recipient	Amount	Description
Akiachak	Akiachak Native Community	\$163,699	CHRP: Law enforcement officer
Akiak	Akiak Native Community	\$93,997	CHRP: Law enforcement officer
Anchorage	Alaska Native Justice Center	\$585,397	Revictimization prevention
Anchorage	Municipality of Anchorage	\$2,700,337	Mobile data computer system rehabilitation project; sworn officer specialized overtime: Downtown Foot Patrol, Zero Tolerance Patrol; grant management overtime; Meth Education coordinator
Anchorage	Municipality of Anchorage	\$2,599,578	CHRP: 9 officers retained
Anchorage	Municipality of Anchorage	\$437,265	Internet Crimes Against Children task force
Anvik	Alaska Native Women's Coalition Against Domestic Violence	\$154,000	Services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
Anvik	Anvik Tribal Council	\$138,933	CHRP: Law enforcement officer
Atmautluak	Atmautluak Traditional Council	\$93,997	CHRP: Law enforcement officer
Barrow	Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government	\$447,488	Higher education opportunities for victims of domestic violence/sexual assault; provider training
Barrow	North Slope Borough	\$74,540	Police equipment
Bethel	City of Bethel	\$63,397	BJA Byrne Grant-JAG: Police equipment
Craig	City of Craig	\$27,280	BJA Byrne Grant-JAG: Police equipment
Fairbanks	City of Fairbanks	\$529,698	CHRP: Law enforcement officer
Fairbanks	City of Fairbanks	\$319,676	Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement (ABADE) and tactical team operational support
Fairbanks	Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living	\$478,869	Transitional housing for domestic violence victims
Fairbanks	Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living	\$39,000	VOCA formula grant: Facilities expenses
Gambell	City of Gambell	\$133,375	CHRP: Law enforcement officer
Homer	City of Homer	\$48,412	BJA Byrne Grant-JAG: Communications/computer system
Juneau	Alaska Department of Administration	\$149,316	VOCA formula grant: Services to crime victims
Juneau	Alaska Department of Public Safety	\$5,821,018	BJA Byrne Grant-JAG: Crime control and prevention
Juneau	Alaska Department of Public Safety	\$803,624	STOP Violence Against Women formula grant
Juneau	Alaska Department of Public Safety	\$87,960	VOCA formula grant: Services to victims of violent crime
Juneau	Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	\$156,250	Domestic violence/sexual assault victims services
Juneau	Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies (AWARE)	\$55,875	VOCA formula grant: Services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
Juneau	City and Borough of Juneau	\$147,543	Police department crisis intervention
Juneau	City and Borough of Juneau	\$35,894	Police equipment
Kenai	City of Kenai	\$30,738	Communications/computer system
Kenai	The Leeshore Center	\$33,372	VOCA formula grant: Services to crime victims
Ketchikan	City of Ketchikan	\$38,807	Digital evidence management system
Kodiak	City of Kodiak	\$36,117	Law enforcement training simulator
Kotlik	Kotlik Traditional Council	\$144,699	CHRP: Law enforcement officer
Kwethluk	Organized Village of Kwethluk	\$113,313	CHRP: Law enforcement officer
Manokotak	Manokotak Village Council	\$171,058	CHRP: Law enforcement officer
Palmer	City of Palmer	\$127,563	BJA Byrne Grant-JAG: Police vehicles and equipment
Quinhagak	Native Village of Kwinhagak	\$1,350,000	Multi-purpose justice center
Sitka	City and Borough of Sitka	\$264,200	CHRP: School resource officer
Sitka	City and Borough of Sitka	\$29,970	Police computer systems upgrade
St. Paul	Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Tribal Government	\$180,338	Police equipment

Total through February 11, 2010 \$18,906,593

BJA Byrne Grant-JAG: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

CHRP: Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Recovery Program

VOCA: Victims of Crime Act

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, February 2010

Alaska Prisoner Re-entry Task Force

Teresa White Carns

The Alaska Prisoner Re-entry Task Force, a subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Working Group, met in April 2010 to establish a work plan, identify major areas of focus, and create strategic work groups to address each area. The Task Force goal is: "Individuals who are incarcerated do not return to custody." To achieve this, the Task Force will look for community partners and identify evidence-based strategies to improve the re-entry process. One way to measure progress toward this goal is a reduction in the baseline recidivism rate of 48 percent of adults returned to custody within the first year after their release. Over the next few months, members of the Task Force and subcommittees will use a basic template to develop their own goals and strategies, and will combine their efforts into a five-year strategic plan for implementing successful re-entry for prisoners. The plan should be ready for review by December 2010.

The complexity of the process is indicated by the range of community groups involved, and the variety of subcommittees that the

Task Force established. Task Force members include representatives from the Alaska State Troopers, Department of Labor, Alaska Court System, Department of Corrections, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Division of Behavioral Health, Department of Corrections Chaplaincy Program, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Victims for Justice, Partners for Progress, Nine Star Education and Employment Services, Cook Inlet Tribal Corporation, United Way, Akeela House, the Alaska Native Justice Center, and an ex-offender.

The Task Force subcommittees and their areas of focus are:

- **Results-based accountability assessment team**—create a structure and templates for each of the other groups to follow in developing, recording, and evaluating their work. Results-based accountability techniques are being integrated into the entire project.

- **Web site creation**—create a web site that serves as a reference point for both the members of the Task Force and the work groups, as well as providing information to the public.

- **Data gathering**—compile existing data about criminal justice populations, identify gaps in the data available, and recommend ways to provide the needed information.

- **Health and mental health**—create a baseline that shows current mental health services for offenders, whether incarcerated or not, and identify gaps in services.

- **Housing**—identify the range of existing housing services, describe the gaps, and determine ways to provide affordable housing for those released from incarceration.

- **Employment, workforce development, and education**—look at existing post-incarceration education and employment opportunities, and review ways to

improve access to both.

- **Employment restrictions**—(also known as collateral consequences of incarceration)—build on existing work to identify laws that are barriers to housing, employment, and other needs of persons with felony convictions. Consider what changes might be possible, in the context of public safety, and rehabilitation of the offender.

- **State ID for released prisoners**—develop a plan to ensure prisoners have a state ID (or drivers' license) in order to qualify for benefits, work, and other daily needs.

- **Mentoring/faith-based assistance**—determine how to improve this type of support for people newly released from incarceration.

- **Misdemeanor prisoner population**—review the special difficulties for prisoners incarcerated for misdemeanors who will have little or no support network or supervision after release.

One example of a strategy that could be used to meet the Task Force goals relates to the Housing Subcommittee. Safe, sober housing has been shown to be a significant factor in reducing recidivism. A recent UAA Master's graduate in public policy, Stephanie Lawley, has developed a grid showing available housing for low income people and identifying length of stay possible, genders housed, access to public transportation, number of rooms, and requirements for residents of each facility. This grid could be the basis for a web-based application available to all agencies working to house newly-released prisoners.

Teri Carns is with the Alaska Judicial Council in Anchorage, with responsibility for research projects, report writing, and aspects of judicial selection and retention.



Alaska Justice Forum

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Published quarterly by the

Justice Center
 University of Alaska Anchorage
 3211 Providence Drive
 Anchorage, AK 99508
 (907) 786-1810
 (907) 786-7777 fax
 ayjust@uaa.alaska.edu
 http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/just/

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 University of Alaska Anchorage
 ISSN 0893-8903

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Faculty Changes

Professor Deborah Periman has been awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor effective July 1, 2010. She has been a full-time member of the Justice faculty for 10 years and has taught courses in legal writing and research, development of law, civil pre-trial issues, and paralegal management. She also served as adjunct faculty during the early 1990s. Professor Periman received her J.D. with honors from Willamette University College of Law and worked in private practice in Anchorage prior to coming to the Justice Center.

Dr. Adrienne Freng, Justice Center Visiting Faculty for the Spring 2010 semester, will be returning to the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Wyoming, where she is an Associate Professor. While in Alaska, Dr. Freng completed research on juvenile justice issues involving female offenders.

Table 4. Age at First Referral and Adjudication

Column percentages.

Age	Referred			Adjudicated		
	N	%	cum %	N	%	cum %
Ten or less	4	13.8 %	13.8 %	0	0.0 %	0.0 %
Eleven	3	10.3	24.1	0	0.0	0.0
Twelve	3	10.3	34.5	3	10.3	10.3
Thirteen	5	17.2	51.7	6	20.7	31.0
Fourteen	6	20.7	72.4	9	31.0	62.1
Fifteen	5	17.2	89.7	6	20.7	82.8
Sixteen	2	6.9	96.6	3	10.3	93.1
Seventeen	1	3.4	100.0	2	6.9	100.0
Total	29			29		

Source of data: Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice

Table 5. Age at First Referral and Adjudication for Sex Offense

Column percentages.

Age	Referred			Adjudicated		
	N	%	cum %	N	%	cum %
Ten or less	1	3.6 %	3.6 %	0	0.0 %	0.0 %
Eleven	0	0.0	3.6	0	0.0	0.0
Twelve	2	7.1	10.7	2	7.7	7.7
Thirteen	6	21.4	32.1	5	19.2	26.9
Fourteen	7	25.0	57.1	7	26.9	53.8
Fifteen	8	28.6	85.7	6	23.1	76.9
Sixteen	3	10.7	96.4	4	15.4	92.3
Seventeen	1	3.6	100.0	2	7.7	100.0
Total	28			26		

Source of data: Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice

Sex offenders

(continued from page 1)

to 18, but 41 percent had ten or more referred charges. The number of adjudicated charges was obviously lower, with only 7 percent of the 29 MYC sex offenders having eight or more adjudicated charges. Over half (52%) had four or fewer adjudicated charges. The number of adjudicated charges varied from a low of one to a maximum of 33, with a mean of five adjudicated charges per youth ($s = 5.9$).

Overall, the 29 MYC sex offenders were adjudicated for a total of 151 offenses (both sex and non-sex offenses), including 29 felonies (19%), 57 misdemeanors (38%), and 65 probation violations (43%). These offenders were referred to the Division of Juvenile Justice for a total of 77 sex offenses, 44 of which (57%) resulted in adjudication. On average, MYC sex offenders were adjudicated for 1.0 felony offense ($s = 1.3$), 2.0 misdemeanor offenses ($s = 3.1$), and 2.1 probation violations ($s = 2.9$). The average number of adjudicated sex offenses was 1.5 ($s = 1.2$) (Table 3). The 29 MYC sex offenders were adjudicated for a variety of offenses—44 sex offenses, 107 non-sex offenses, and 65 probation violations.

Age at Referral and Adjudication

Four youth (14%) were first referred to the Division of Juvenile Justice at age 10 or younger (Table 4). Slightly over half

of the MYC sex offenders (52%) were first referred to the Division of Juvenile Justice before their fourteenth birthday. No youth was adjudicated prior to age 12, but over half (62%) were adjudicated prior to their fifteenth birthday. The average age at first referral was 12.8 ($s = 2.8$) and the average age at first adjudication was 14.2 ($s = 1.4$).

Age at first referral and adjudication for sex offenses is shown in Table 5. Twenty-eight youth were referred to the Division of Juvenile Justice for a sex offense, and 26 were adjudicated. (Not all 29 youth were referred and adjudicated for a sex offense, but all youth who participated in sex offender treatment were included in this evaluation.) More than half (57%) of the MYC sex offenders were referred to the Division of Juvenile Justice for a sex offense before age 15. The first adjudicated sex offense did not occur until age 12. Over half (54%) of the MYC sex offenders were adjudicated of a sex offense between 12 and 14 years of age. On average, the MYC sex offenders were referred to the Division of Juvenile Justice for their first sex offense at age 14.0 ($s = 2.0$) and were adjudicated of their first sex offense at age 14.4 ($s = 1.4$).

Time Detained/Institutionalized

The 29 MYC sex offenders spent a considerable amount of time, 30,217 days, detained or institutionalized in a Division of Juvenile Justice facility. On average, the offenders spent 1,042 days detained or institutionalized ($s = 265.0$), or 2.9 years ($s = 0.7$). In this sample, the least amount of time detained or institutionalized in a Division of Juvenile Justice facility was 593 days, while the greatest amount of time was 1,785 days. Additional detail on the total length of detention and institutionalization is provided in Table 6. Only one youth spent less than two years detained or institutionalized. Over half of the MYC sex offenders (66%) spent two to three years detained or institutionalized and an additional 24 percent spent three to four years. Two of the MYC sex offenders (7%) spent four to five years detained or institutionalized.

Developmental Trajectories

Group-based models were utilized to identify distinct developmental trajectories (or histories of delinquent behavior) from

Please see **Sex offenders**, page 8

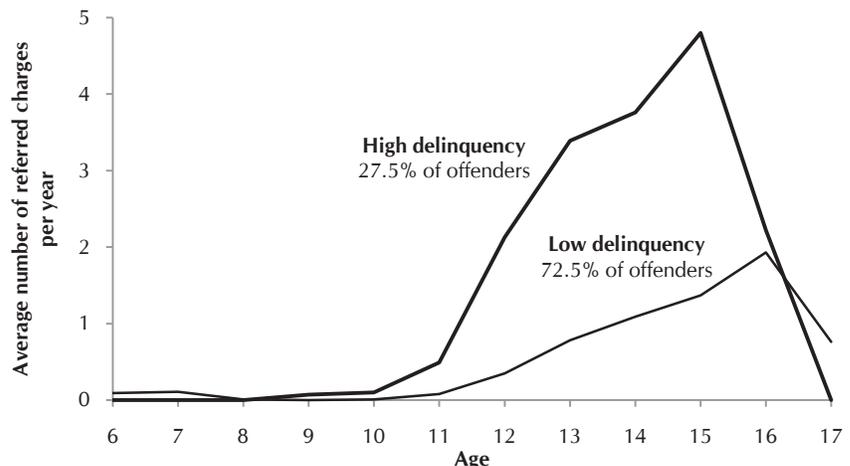
Table 6. Total Length of Detention and Institutionalization

Column percentages.

Length	N	%	cum %
1 to 2 years	1	3.4 %	3.4 %
2 to 3 years	19	65.5	69.0
3 to 4 years	7	24.1	93.1
4 to 5 years	2	6.9	100.0
Total	29		

Source of data: Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice

Figure 1. Developmental Trajectories of Offending for McLaughlin Youth Center Sex Offenders





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age six to 17 for the 29 MYC sex offenders based on referred charges. At each age, we calculated the rate of referred charges. The rate of referred charges is calculated as the number of charges referred to the Division of Juvenile Justice when individuals are at-risk of offending. Stated differently, these rates control for periods of detentions and institutionalizations when youth are not at-risk of offending. Rates of offending are only calculated when youth are neither detained nor institutionalized. Results clearly revealed that the 29 MYC sex offenders belonged to two distinct groups of offenders, with different offending trajectories from age six to 17. Results are graphically displayed in Figure 1. For each group, Figure 1 depicts the rate of referred charges per year from age six to 17. Of the 29 MYC sex offenders, 21 (72%) were classified in a low delinquency group while eight (28%) were classified in a high delinquency group. Up to age 11, offenders in both groups were indistinguishable. Starting at age 11, offenders in the high delinquency group experienced a dramatic increase in offending, up to age 15 when they were referred to the Division of Juvenile Justice for an average of almost five charges per year. Offenders in the low delinquency group experienced a more gradual increase in offending, up to age 16 when they were referred to the Division of Juvenile Justice for an average of almost two charges per

year. By age 17, offenders in both groups showed dramatic decreases in offending. These declines in offending are not attributable to being detained or institutionalized because the models control for periods of detention and institutionalization. (Rates are calculated based on the amount of time youth are at-risk of offending). Instead, these declines are congruent with other research that supports the effectiveness of sex offender treatment and supervision provided by the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice. The decline in offending at age 17 was particularly true for offenders in the high delinquency group who, on average, were referred to the Division of Juvenile Justice for 0.00002 charges when at-risk of offending. Although one group was clearly offending at a higher rate, both groups showed signs of desistance by age 17.

The racial composition of the two offender groups is shown in Table 7. White offenders were significantly more likely to be in the high delinquency group than Native or other offenders ($p = 0.01$). More specifically, six (75%) of the eight offenders in the high delinquency group were White. Native offenders and offenders from other racial groups were more likely to be in the low delinquency group than in the high delinquency group (but differences were not statistically significant).

Two distinct groups of juvenile sex offenders can be identified from among those participating in the MYC sex offender treatment program. After age 17, both the high

Table 7. Racial Composition of Developmental Trajectories

Column percentages.

Race	Group		% equal across groups?
	Low delinquency	High delinquency	
White	23.8 %	75.0 %	No
Native	42.9	12.5	Yes
Other	33.3	12.5	Yes
Total	100.0	100.0	

Source of data: Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice

and low desistance groups reveal signs of desistance. At younger ages, from 11 to 16, juvenile sex offenders appear to be different; by age 17, the differences in rate of offending have diminished and both groups reveal signs of desistance.

Juvenile sex offenders are often viewed as an intractable problem with little evidence of effective treatment. The special MYC juvenile sex offender treatment program coupled with supervision and maturation offers evidence of successful treatment. Although costly in time and money, such treatment and supervision seem worthy of further investigation.

Dr. André B. Rosay is the Director of the Justice Center. Dr. Ronald S. Everett is an Associate Professor with the Justice Center. This project was funded by the Alaska Native Justice Center, Inc. We thank the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice and Susan McDonough (Research Analyst IV) for providing all data.