

The

Civic Forum



Spring, 2004
Volume 2, Issue 2

Upcoming Events:

Dr. Stalcup,
Methamphetamine
Addiction and Treatment
May 27, 2004
Performing Arts Center
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Kinnane Conference
The Future of Crime
June 11, 2004
Details Forthcoming

Recent Publications:

- Sanction Certainty
November 2003
- *Directions, II*
- Incurrigibility Project
Annual Report,
September 2003
- Juvenile Offenders &
Crime in Erie County,
April 2003
- Criminal Justice
Advisory Boards,
April 2003
- Births to Teens,
August 2003

Visit our updated website for
publications at:

www.mercyhurst.edu/civicinstitute

Kinnane Conference 2004: The Future of Crime: The Challenge for Justice

Planning for the annual 2004 Kinnane Conference sponsored by the Mercyhurst Criminal Justice Department and the Mercyhurst Civic Institute is underway. The date for the conference has been set for June 11. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m..

This year's focus will be the *Future of Crime: The*

Challenge for Justice. . . . William Tafoya, Ph.D., Professor at the University of New Haven, and Carl Anderson, Esq., Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency will speak. There will also be a panel on local homeland security. Secretary of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge, has

been invited to participate. The conference will also include the annual Kinnane Awards Luncheon.

Registration forms will be forthcoming. For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please contact Shelley Thayer at 814-824-2327.

Sanction Certainty: An Evaluation of Erie County's Adult Probation Sanctioning System

The Mercyhurst College Civic Institute is currently conducting an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Sanction Certainty directive of the Erie County Adult Probation Department. In 1997, Judge John Bozza requested that the Adult Probation Department in Erie County implement a Zero Tolerance (Sanction Certainty) pilot program which would provide responses to violations with clarity, celerity, and certainty; the desired outcomes were a reduction in the number of violations and a decrease in the amount of incarceration for offenders. In 1998, the Erie County Adult Probation Department performed a

year-long study which found fewer revocations, violations, and days of incarceration for the Zero Tolerance caseloads compared to the control caseloads. In 2001, the Mercyhurst College Civic Institute conducted a replication study finding similar results.

With the implementation of the Sanction Certainty directive for most caseloads in the Adult Probation Department in December 2002, Judge Bozza and Robert Lewis, Former Director of Erie County Adult Probation, requested that the Civic Institute conduct another replication study. The current evaluation began on April 1, 2003 and is scheduled to be

completed by the end of May 2004. Along with analyzing the number of violations, revocations, and days of incarceration, this study is also considering the demographic factors of violators to determine if correlations exist between these factors and offenders' recidivism rates. A six month preliminary report issued in November of 2003 had results that coincided with the findings from the initial studies. Upon completion of this study period, a final report comparing the outcomes of the evaluation with the preliminary report and previous studies will be produced.

Dr. Stalcup to Bring Expertise on Methamphetamine Treatment to Mercyhurst

The Civic Institute has partnered with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office to promote public awareness regarding the dangers of methamphetamines and clandestine labs over the past year.

According to Elaine Surma, Senior Narcotics Agent of the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, three years ago only five labs were uncovered in the Northwestern Pennsylvania Region, but that number has reached over 40 thus far in 2004.

In an effort to further education in Northwestern Pennsylvania, the Civic Institute and the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office is bringing S. Alex. Stalcup, M.D., an

expert on methamphetamine addiction and treatment, to Mercyhurst College.

Dr. Stalcup will provide a one day training on meth addiction and treatment on Thursday, May 27, 2004 at the Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst College from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. The target audience is professionals in the medical, criminal justice, social work, and counseling fields.

S. Alex Stalcup, MD is a graduate of Whittier College and a graduate of the University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine. He is Board Certified in Pediatrics, certified in Addiction Medicine by the American Society of Addiction

Medicine (ASAM) and certified as a Medical Review Officer by ASAM, and the Medical Review Officers Certifying Council. In 1990, after three years at the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic in San Francisco, Dr. Stalcup opened a private practice in addiction medicine. Since 1996, he has served as the Medical Director of the New Leaf Treatment Center in Lafayette, California. He also serves as a lecturer and consultant for drug treatment and chemical dependency issues to both public and private agencies in California and nationally. For more information, please contact Amy Eisert at (814) 824-2551 or via email at aeisert@mercyhurst.edu

Civic Institute Publications Newly Available on the National Criminal Justice Reference Service

The National Criminal Justice Reference Service will be offering selected Civic Institute publications and reports through their database for access by interested parties worldwide. The NCJRS is a federally funded resource that offers justice and substance abuse information in support of research, policy, and program

development worldwide. The resources are available to anyone interested in crime and public safety, including policymakers, practitioners, researchers, educators, community leaders, and the public at large.

For those reports selected, the NCJRS will assign a number at which time they will be accessible through their website at

www.ncjrs.org

The first two reports that have been selected are the Juvenile Offenders in Erie County (NCJ # 203153) and the Process Evaluation of the Erie County CJ Advisory Board (NCJ # 203154).

Publications can also be found on the Civic Institute's website at:

www.mercyhurst.edu/civicinstitute

Transitions

Two long standing members of the Erie County Criminal Justice Coalition: Drug and Alcohol Director, Namon McWilliams, and Adult

Probation/Parole Director, Robert Lewis, recently retired after decades of dedicated duty to the citizens of Erie County. Our best

wishes and congratulations go out to these two outstanding professionals

Evaluation Reveals CROMISA Project Saves Money and Protects Public Safety

The Civic Institute’s most recent evaluation of the Erie County CROMISA project shows that not only does the program save money, but it also protects public safety. Results show that the program for mentally ill and substance abusing state inmates saves the state over \$200,000 each year. When compared to a control group of dually diagnosed Erie County inmates released prior to the implementation of the CROMISA program, those who have graduated

from CROMISA are less likely to commit new crimes.

CROMISA is a yearlong program to reintegrate clients back into the community. Since its inception four years ago, 34 people have completed the program. The funding for the program, which had become a model for the state, comes from the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Department of Public Welfare. Services are provided through the partner agencies of the Office of Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Case

Management Support Services, Gaudenzia/Crossroads, Stairways, Deerfield and the PA Office of Parole and Probation.

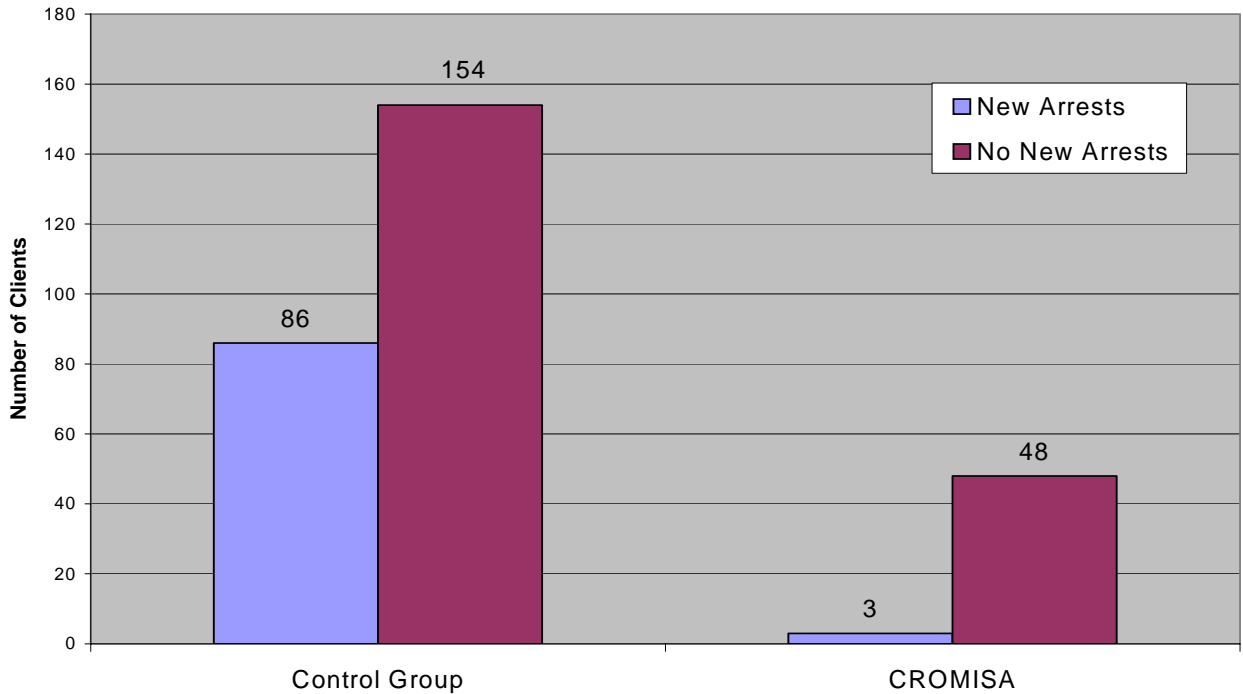
Much more information is available in the most current report which is on our website.

www.mercyhurst.edu/civici nstitute

“The Cromisa Program demonstrates that inmates can successfully reintegrate back into the community with essential supportive services.”

Namon McWilliams, Former Executive Director, Office of Drug & Alcohol Abuse

New Arrests



School Resource Officer Evaluation to Focus Second Year on Law Enforcement Perspectives

The Civic Institute was contracted by the Center for Safe Schools and Communities under a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to conduct a two year evaluation of the School Resource Officer Programs funded through the state. The first year evaluation included surveys of parents, teachers, and students in addition to site visits and personal interviews with the School Resource Officers and school administrators.

Overall, the program was found to be supported by parents, students, and teachers support from the school and community. The higher-ranking programs among parents and teachers had officers over the age of 30 with over eight years of

law enforcement experience. In addition, parents and teachers responded more positively about SROs that reported conducting counselor/mentoring duties the majority of the time and were assigned at least part-time to summer school or programming when school was out of session. Students, teachers, and parents all reported being more favorable of programs where the SRO was only assigned to one building and when the SRO volunteered for the position.

School administrators stressed the importance of the personality of SROs, responding more favorably about SROs that had volunteered for the position. In addition, the value of immediacy of citation was emphasized among the

higher-ranking programs, indicating that the ability of SROs to issue citations and conduct onsite investigations was an important issue among school administrators.

The second year of the evaluation will focus on the law enforcement attitudes and perceptions of the program, and the impact of the program. In addition, all administrators throughout Pennsylvania will be surveyed to determine the prevalence of security programs, and the barriers to implementing SRO programs in schools.

The results of the study will be used to create a Best Practice Manual for the program that will be distributed to all law enforcement agencies and schools throughout Pennsylvania.

StartSmart Foundation Brings Alcohol Prevention Program to Millcreek Youth & Families

The StartSMART (Stop More Alcohol-Related Tragedies) Foundation is a private, non-profit operating foundation created to work to reduce the multitude of negative outcomes possible in adolescent alcohol use and abuse. To that end, StartSMART has developed a High School Program that combines a community- and family-based alcohol education program with a new generation of simple to use, rapid, saliva-based alcohol tests provided at no cost to participants. StartSMART has been

specifically designed to work in concert with any previously existing prevention programs in a community.

The Millcreek School District was selected to be the first site of implementation of the program. Evaluation of the program will be conducted by the Civic Institute with Mark Beary as the lead analyst. The evaluation will use baseline data, focus groups, questionnaires, and beta families to determine the effects of the StartSMART program on the

negative outcomes of adolescent alcohol use. The goal of the study is to determine whether the StartSMART education program, combined with the distribution of rapid alcohol tests, will have an impact on drinking habits among adolescents and on the adverse consequences of drinking.

Training sessions for families began in January 2004. For more information, visit the StartSmart Foundation website at www.startsmart.us

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About Our Organization...

The Civic Institute is a college-community partnership dedicated to the social, health, educational, and civic well being of the Erie region. As an interdisciplinary initiative of Mercyhurst College, the Institute seeks to promote an engaged and informed citizenry within the Erie region.

The Civic Institute seeks to evaluate, understand and improve public policies and processes, which affect the region's citizens. It serves as a central repository for published information regarding the social and civic challenges, as well as opportunities facing Erie. In addition, the Institute seeks to provide Mercyhurst

College faculty, undergraduate and graduate students with applied social policy, research and evaluation experience related to child, family, health, and justice issues.

"We will ever strive for the ideals and sacred things of the city, both alone and with many; we will unceasingly seek to quicken the sense of public duty; we will revere and obey the city's laws; we will transmit this city not only not less, but greater, better, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."

-From the oath of the Athenian City-State

Our New Website is Up & Running!

Visit us at:

civicinstitute.mercyhurst.edu

Questions or Comments?
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