

April 2008

**The mission of the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board is to provide system-wide comprehensive planning and oversight, identify training and technical assistance needs and direct the efficient and effective application of Federal funds toward developing and sustaining projects and programs that deliver services to the Franklin County community to enhance their health, safety, and welfare.**

**The Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board was created in April 2000 as a result of the merge between the City of Columbus and Franklin County into a Regional Planning Unit for Criminal Justice Services. The Board consists of members representing justice and related disciplines including law enforcement, courts, probation/parole, victims, victim services, corrections, juvenile, community, faith-based, crime prevention, public defenders, prosecutors, education, the Mayor of the City of Columbus and the Board of Franklin County Commissioners.**

**The Board is responsible for comprehensive regional justice planning and directing the justice mission of the Office of Homeland Security & Justice Programs. The Franklin County Office of Homeland Security & Justice Programs performs the fiscal and programmatic administration of the county's federal justice block grants and the Urban Area Security Initiative; provides training and technical assistance for the justice partners and first responders; and is responsible for the development and evaluation of projects and programs operating in accordance with the Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan and the Homeland Security Strategy.**

**The Board developed the “Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan” to identify major emphasis areas of concentration within each discipline to enhance efficiency and improve the delivery of justice services in Franklin County. The planning process was initiated in late spring of 2001 by interviewing thirty-one key stakeholders to gather feedback on current justice system operations and identify assets and needs within the system. Next, a mail survey was delivered to one hundred and three criminal justice projects, programs, and partners in Franklin County who potentially administer programs that are part of the justice system. The summary of survey responses provided an assessment of identified justice needs and produced an asset inventory of programs that was published and distributed to justice partners. In addition to key stakeholder interviews and justice partner surveys, Board members studied a comprehensive data profile of the justice system including an overview of current trends and conditions within Franklin County prior to retreating to develop the Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan. The Plan is revised and updated on an annual basis to include impact accomplishments and address emerging trends and conditions that affect Franklin County’s justice delivery system.**

**The Homeland Security Strategy was developed in January 2004 by the Homeland Security Advisory Committee and is aligned with the State of Ohio’s Homeland Security Strategy. The Strategy is updated annually to identify progress toward meeting the National Preparedness Framework and to define the implementation steps necessary to support the Urban Area in achieving the required target capabilities. The Strategy is written in an all-hazards approach to identify on-going efforts to provide organizing, planning, training, exercising, and equipment to secure critical infrastructure, provide personal protection, improve communications, promote interoperability, and prepare our citizens. The Homeland Security Strategy is a sensitive document protected under the**

**Homeland Security Act and Ohio Revised Code Section #149.43 so is therefore referred to in general terms herein.**

**The Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan and the Homeland Security Strategy are live documents that will remain strategic to allow for the implementation of priority projects as trends and conditions emerge and new initiatives are developed to meet the demand for change within the delivery system.**

**THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE**

**STRATEGIC JUSTICE PLAN**

**Presented By:**

**The 2008 Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board**

**Members**

Hon. Michael B. Coleman, Columbus City Mayor  
Hon. Mary Jo Kilroy, Franklin County Commissioner  
Hon. Ted Barrows, Franklin County Municipal Court  
Hon. Christopher Geer, Franklin County Juvenile Court  
Hon. Daniel Hogan, Common Pleas Administrative Judge  
Hon. Ronald O'Brien, Franklin County Prosecutor  
Hon. Richard C. Pfeiffer, Columbus City Attorney  
Hon. Andrew Ginther, Columbus City Council  
Hon. Eric Brown, Common Pleas Judge  
Hon. Lori Tyack, Clerk of Municipal Court  
Hon. James A. Karnes, Franklin County Sheriff  
Harvey Minton, Worthington City Mayor  
Suzanne Coleman Tolbert, Job Leaders  
Kevin P. Clark, Municipal Probation  
Denise Robinson, Alvis House Director  
Cindi Gibson, Common Pleas Adult Probation  
James G. Jackson, Columbus City Police Chief  
David Royer, Franklin County ADAMH  
Gayle Dittmer, Adult Probation Services  
Yeura Venters, Franklin County Public Defender  
Bud Potter, Community-Based Corrections  
Bishop Marshall, Community Representative  
Marcia White, Community Representative

**Alternates:**

George Speaks, Columbus City Asst. Safety Director  
Kirsten Fraser, Senior Admin Asst for Comm Kilroy

Jane McKenzie, Franklin County Prosecutor's Office  
Anne Murray, Director, Columbus City Attys. Office

Stephan Martin, Franklin County Chief Deputy

Steven Gammill, Columbus City Police Deputy Chief

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**Franklin County administers approximately three (3) million dollars in federal justice formula block grant funds, one point five (1.5) million dollars in regional Homeland Security funds and nine (9) million dollars in Homeland Security (Urban Area Security Initiative) funds annually passed through to the Office of Homeland Security & Justice Programs (OHS&JP) by the State of Ohio. The Franklin County allocation of federal justice block grants is disbursed through a competitive grant process administered by the OHS & JP. Regional Homeland Security funds are awarded by the State of Ohio through a competitive application process at the State level and Franklin County's allocation of Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funds is disbursed through a comprehensive funding process as determined by the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) and administered by the OHS&JP.**

**Under the direction of the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, the OHS&JP administers the S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act block grant program. Under the direction of the Ohio Department of Youth Services, the OHS&JP administers the Juvenile Accountability and Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Title II block grant programs. The Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) is a discretionary grant passed directly from the Department of Justice (DOJ) to the OHS&JP. DOJ grants have an open application period once a year and operate on a continuing basis for a minimum of twelve months. Federal and State Directives are established for each grant, each year, and passed through to the local level for implementation.**

**Franklin County's five competitive justice block grants provide funding for a wide variety of projects and programs including crime prevention, victim services, local law enforcement assistance, juvenile delinquency prevention, law enforcement task forces, technology integration and information sharing, alternatives to corrections, substance abuse treatment, and innovative programs operated within**

**the justice disciplines. Applications for projects and programs that impact the major emphasis areas identified by discipline for law enforcement, courts, probation/parole, victim services, crime prevention, juvenile, corrections, and courts will be given priority funding. The Board will focus on the major emphasis areas in each of the justice disciplines as funding plans are developed within the guidelines of the block grant initiatives.**

**Common major emphasis themes throughout all justice disciplines include the lack of mental health and substance abuse treatment programs, the need for alternatives to incarceration, a demand for system and technology integration, inadequate funding to meet system demands, and most prevalent, the need for cultural understanding training and language interpretation services. The Board will continue to focus research, evaluation and planning efforts on these identified priority areas in the 2008 programming year.**

**In addition, the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board has established the following local directives to support identified major emphasis areas in accordance with the Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan:**

- Projects and programs funded through the OHS&JP are expected to promote inter-cultural understanding and cultural competency by developing targeted outreach programs that make services available to all segments of our community.**
- Applications for youth programs operating after school, Saturdays, or during the summer must include a nutritious breakfast, lunch or hot supper for all LMI children participating in the**

**program. Applicants will be required to work with the Children’s Hunger Alliance to qualify their program site for services.**

- **Training and technical assistance programs will be developed and administered by the OHS&JP to address needs identified in the major emphasis areas of the Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan. Attendance will be mandatory for affected personnel funded through the OHS&JP.**
- **Projects and programs funded through the OHS&JP are required to submit written minutes (including attendance) of their Collaborative Board meetings along with their quarterly fiscal and programmatic reports.**
- **S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act sub-grantees are required to attend and participate in quarterly meetings/collaborations of the Franklin County VAWA Advisory Board.**
- **Crime Prevention projects and programs funded through the OHS&JP are required to have local law enforcement as a working partner in their project and represented on their Collaborative Board.**
- **Justice projects and programs funded through the OHS&JP must participate in the Commissioner’s Annual Justice Exposition to promote public awareness, facilitate networking and collaboration between justice disciplines and provide the opportunity for evaluation by members of the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board.**

**Under the direction of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, the OHS&JP administers the Columbus Urban Area Security Initiative grant program. The Columbus Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant provides funding to plan, equip, train, and exercise Franklin County's First Responders. Based on the Columbus Urban Area Homeland Security Strategy developed by the Franklin County Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC), funding is prioritized based on identified threat, risk and need.**

**Crossing the ten First Responder disciplines of administration, public health, emergency management, fire, EMS, law enforcement, HazMat/DeCon, health care, public works, and public information, grant funds are applied to meet regional goals to prevent, respond to, and recover from disaster in an all-hazards approach.**

**The HSAC will continuously update and refine the Columbus Urban Area Homeland Security Strategy to reflect accomplished implementation steps, assess progress toward completion of goals, and address current trends and conditions in accordance with Homeland Security efforts at the Federal, State, and Local levels.**

**The HSAC has developed the following local directives for the UASI funds:**

- All funding requests must be Regional in application.**
- All projects must be in accordance with the Goals of the Columbus Urban Area Homeland Security Strategy.**
- The CEO of the political sub-division must approve the request for equipment and accept all on-going costs including maintenance, licenses, insurance, etc.**
- Projects will be funded in full or in part based on identified threat, risk, and need priority.**

# **JUSTICE DISCIPLINES**

## **HOMELAND SECURITY**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Enhance regional Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detection and response capabilities.**
- b) Increase protection of Critical Infrastructure (CI), Key Resources (KR), and Financial Resources (FR) through identification and inclusion in ACAMS as designated by the National Infrastructure Protection Plan.**
- c) Implement Homeland Security training programs developed by the Office of Domestic Preparedness and Department of Homeland Security in a multi-disciplined, multi-jurisdictional approach.**
- d) Work toward meeting the National Preparedness Framework through compliance with the National Incident Management System, National Infrastructure Protection Plan, and National Response Plan.**
- e) Strengthen citizen preparedness and increase citizen participation through Citizens Corps and CERT programs.**
- f) Improve regional planning for emergency evacuation and receiving dislocated persons from outside affected areas.**
- g) Enhance Information Sharing, Intelligence Gathering by expanding the TEW and co-locating TEW with JTTF and State Fusion center.**

## **PROSECUTION**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Promote the integration of justice technology to facilitate case management, ensure the delivery of comprehensive services, and facilitate communication between agencies.**
- b) Reduce the current violent crimes caseload per prosecutor.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Provide cultural understanding training for law enforcement and prosecutors that promotes diverse cultural competency.**
- b) Reduce communication barriers through the employment of language interpretation services.**

## **PUBLIC DEFENDER**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Promote inter-agency collaboration countywide, and utilize new information technology and improved telecommunication services to enhance office efficiency.**
- b) Promote cultural competency among staff to improve delivery of service to cultural diverse populations, and work collaboratively with key stakeholders within the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems to reduce disproportionate minority contacts within both systems.**
- c) Provide continued staff development to improve professional competency and increase staff awareness of changing legislation and social policy trends which could adversely impact the population that we serve.**
- d) Ensure professional and support services are adequately staffed to address increasing caseloads.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Participate in county, state, and local initiatives to identify community justice needs and recommend systemic change to maximize the use of county resources to address those needs.**
- b) Develop and distribute Public Defender information pamphlets in Somali and Spanish to those within our community who do not speak English, to increase awareness of our program and the services we provide.**
- c) Continue to monitor the statistical impact new sexual offender laws which increase mandatory penalties and impose greater restrictions on registration and notification (SORN), to identify any additional staffing and office space needs due to increases in the number of trials, classification hearings, appeals, and time needed to prepare.**

## **CRIME PREVENTION**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Demand accountability from parents and juveniles for acts of delinquency.**
- b) Develop evaluation instruments for crime prevention projects to determine effectiveness of programs and identify best practice models for replication.**
- c) Require collaboration with law enforcement in all funded crime prevention projects.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Require crime prevention projects to maintain a working collaborative composed of multi-disciplined partners.**
- b) Promote community sanctions as alternatives in sentencing.**
- c) Strengthen the safety net program for senior citizen victims of crime.**

## **VICTIM SERVICES**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Increase funding for victim services and direct funding to appropriate and effective victim service projects.**
- b) Develop and promote a safe reporting method for family members experiencing violence in the home.**
- c) Create specialized victim service programs for youth with emphasis on youth who are witnesses to criminal violence.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Coordinate provider services to deliver a comprehensive service plan to victims.**
- b) Develop the role of victim advocates in the probation department to address victim notification, restitution, and offender violations.**
- c) Provide cultural understanding training for advocates and staff that promotes diverse cultural competency.**
- d) Reduce communication barriers through the employment of multi-lingual staff or language interpretation services.**

## **CORRECTIONS**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Provide cultural understanding training to corrections personnel to promote diverse cultural competency and reduce communication barriers through the employment of language interpretation services.**
- b) Reduce the burden on corrections by increasing the use of alternatives to incarceration.**
- c) Lead efforts to address the issue of jail overcrowding.**
- d) Fund projects and programs that are evidence-based best practice models.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Address the lack of in-patient services for offenders requiring psychiatric care.**
- b) Establish mental health and dual diagnosis medical services for offenders.**
- c) Develop a pre-trial release system for specialized populations.**

## **JUVENILE**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Development of family based prevention and probation programs.**
- b) Demand accountability from parents and youth for acts of delinquency.**
- c) Create programs to serve special juvenile populations including sexually violent offenders, homeless youth, and juvenile offenders deemed mentally incompetent.**
- d) Address the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) issues within the juvenile justice system.**
- e) Develop response programs to address juveniles involved in youth gang related violence.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Eliminate the duplication of services provided for juveniles.**
- b) Reduce the burden on the traditional juvenile justice system by increasing the use of community diversion programs.**

## **COURTS**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) **Expand diversion programs to provide additional alternatives to incarceration.**
- b) **Continue to address the inefficiencies of courtroom facilities, transportation between jail and court, public defender, assignment, and administrative processes.**
- c) **Increase the options and flexibility of treatment programs to allow offenders to maintain employment and meet childcare demands.**
- d) **Proffer short and long term solutions for jail overcrowding.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) **Address the staffing reductions and increased demand for Pre-Sentence Investigations (PSI).**
- b) **Provide cultural understanding training and programs to promote diverse cultural competency and reduce communication barriers through the employment of language interpretation services for prosecutors and public defenders.**
- c) **Develop programs to support alternative sentencing options for special offender populations including mental health/dual diagnosis, substance abuse and medically disadvantaged and/or indigent.**
- d) **Evaluate the impact of the following issues on the judicial system:**
  - **Children in courtrooms**
  - **Imbalance of minority representation**
  - **Environmental conditions impact on crime**
  - **Overburden of drug cases**
  - **Repeated court appearances leading to loss of victim/witness participation**
  - **Pre-trial release**
  - **24 hour Clerk of Courts for Common Pleas or Clerks in Courtroom**
  - **Defendant orientation**
  - **Program costs for indigent families**
- e) **Propose video arraignment for the new Courthouse to reduce the burden on prosecutors, courts and corrections and improve the safety and security of the arraignment process.**

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Promote integration of justice technology to facilitate interagency communication and information sharing. Phase III is currently under way funded by UASI.**
- b) Provide cultural understanding training to promote diverse cultural competency and reduce communication barriers through the employment of language interpretation services.**
- c) Develop pro-active interventions and response plans for violent juvenile gang activity.**
- d) Proffer long and short term solutions for jail overcrowding.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Continue to develop regional collaborations between federal, state, and local law enforcement to support prevention, protection, response, and recovery from all-hazard incidents.**
- b) Address neighborhood quality of life complaints of local citizens including graffiti, noise, and speed violations.**
- c) Reduce D.U.I. (Driving Under Impairment) repeat offenders.**

## **PROBATION/PAROLE**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Reduce caseload on probation/parole officers.**
- b) Increase general fund allocation for probation departments.**
- c) Reduce communication barriers through the employment of language interpretation services and provide required forms in multi languages.**
- d) Increase medical and mental health/dual diagnosis services availability for qualified offenders.**
- e) Improve communication and collaboration between probation/parole and Courts, law enforcement, Prosecutors, other public service agencies and community resource agencies that provide services to probationers.**
- f) Provide assistance in the development and expansion of alternatives to incarceration, consistent with public safety, to address long and short term solutions for jail overcrowding.**
- g) Implement “evidence-based practices” in offender supervision in an effort to reduce recidivism.**
- h) Improve information technology to allow for increased efficiency in case management and offer the opportunity to compile necessary information to determine areas of need and accomplishments.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Increase officer safety through training and issuance of emergency communication devices.**
- b) Provide cultural understanding training to promote diverse cultural competency.**
- c) Increase the utilization of pre-trial services.**
- d) Improve tracking of defendants to provide reliable recidivism information.**