

Criminal Justice
LWVIL Issues Briefing, February 5, 2011
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The year 2010 marked significant progress on those issues highlighted by the Criminal Justice panel at the 2007 Issues Briefing: an overreliance on incarceration and the lack of reentry services that would reduce the number of offenders returning to prison. Issues, such as easing restrictions for the employment of offenders with criminal records, await further action by the 97th General Assembly.

Alternatives to Incarceration

- Adult Redeploy Illinois (PA 96-0761) based on the juvenile model, provides grants to counties that serve offenders in the community rather than committing to the Department of Corrections. Several counties have stepped forward; one proposes to establish a mental health court. Is your county interested? See the web site listed below.
- Risks, Assets, and Needs Assessment (RANA) Task Force (PA 96-0761) authorizes the development of a standard risk assessment tool to be used across the criminal justice system. The League is part of a workgroup.
- The Sentencing Policy Advisory Council (SPAC) (PA 96-0711), which grew out of the work of the Criminal Law, Edit, Alignment and Reform (CLEAR) Commission, will review sentencing policies and practices and examine how they impact the criminal justice system. The League supported CLEAR and SPAC legislation.

Incarceration and Reentry

- Following a two-day Summit that attracted some 200 people last fall, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority has convened six groups to assist in developing a five-year strategic plan for criminal justice policy and programs and related health and human services policy and programs. The League is part of the Jails and Prisons Workgroup.
- Collaborative on Reentry. The final draft of a two-year effort has been circulated for comment. The League was part of two workgroups: Alternatives to Incarceration and Housing.

For more information

- Adult Redeploy Illinois. www.icjia.state.il.us
- LWVIL. www.lwvil.org/criminaljustice.asp

How you and the LWVIL can work together

- Questions about Criminal Justice and program planning? E-mail Eileen Subak. issues@lwvil.org
- Sign the form in the packet if you would like to be a Criminal Justice Grass Roots Advocate.