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CONTACT: Jim Kelly 801-386-5936
jkelly@assessments.com

Assessments.com Selected to Lead \$1.2 Million Statewide Juvenile Justice Project in California

Bountiful, UT— The Correction Standards Authority (CSA) has released \$1.2 million in federal Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Funds to help the California juvenile justice system become more effective and efficient during these difficult economic and budget times. The goal of this initiative is to assist probation departments, local juvenile judicial systems, and other stakeholders in developing and increasing their knowledge and use of best practices by the use of evidence-based programming (EBP) which has been proven successful in reducing recidivism in youthful offenders.

The CSA selected Sean Hosman, CEO of Assessments.com, through a competitive bid process to direct this project. Assessments.com is an evidence-based solutions company in Bountiful, UT and will partner with Dr. Ed Latessa, University of Cincinnati Center for Criminal Justice Research who is a recognized national expert in the field of criminal justice. Also collaborating on this project is Bobbie Huskey, M.S.W., president of Huskey & Associates.

"I am pleased to be part of the state's ongoing effort to improve the delivery of evidence-based programs and services," said Mr. Hosman. "It is my hope that by the conclusion of this three-year project in 2012, that California will have become a model state for how to do EBP right. That means turning young lives around, reducing juvenile recidivism, increasing public safety and saving taxpayer dollars by being both tough and smart on crime."

This initiative has four primary objectives:

1. Determine the juvenile justice system's state of progress in implementing EBP, develop web based resources to help the counties share information about best practices, and to track their advancements in achieving key EBP performance outcome measures.

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2. Provide statewide regional trainings on EBP and best practices to Juvenile Probation Departments, judges and other stakeholders in the juvenile justice system.
3. Direct approximately three quarters of the funding to provide organizational development services to a minimum of three probation departments and their community stakeholders. This intensive on-the-ground technical assistance and training will support each probation department and judicial community selected in implementing the systems change needed to ensure a successful transition to evidence based approach.
4. Develop a plan to help juvenile probation in California sustain these advances.

To further support the Best Practices Approach Initiative, CSA reached out to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The AOC will collaborate in the project by integrating EBP into existing judicial trainings and ensuring that the regional trainings are appropriate for a judicial audience. AOC staff will also support the local judicial and stakeholder teams in integrating services with the county probation departments that are transitioning to the use of evidence-based practices.

In addition, project organizers have established a BPAI Implementation Team consisting of key stakeholders from around the state to provide critical practitioners' advice and assistance in accomplishing project activities. The BPAI I-Team held its first meeting on November 2 in San Francisco; its next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2010 in Sacramento. Members of the BPAI I-Team are listed below.

About Assessments.com (ADC)

Based in Bountiful, Utah, ADC was formed in 1998 when it created a public/private partnership with the Washington Association of Juvenile Court Services (WAJCA) and the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) to change the way the state's justice system worked with juveniles. ADC provides validated risk assessment and case management software, staff training and consulting for many of the largest criminal justice agencies in the U.S. to address juvenile and adult offenders. ADC's on-the-ground experience working with more than 75 criminal justice systems, including many statewide systems such as California, Florida, Texas and Washington state, is producing positive outcomes and cost-savings through innovative changes in business rules, more effective assessment and targeted case planning and needs management.

About the University of Cincinnati Center for Criminal Justice Research

The Center for Criminal Justice Research (CCJR) at the University of Cincinnati (Ohio) was

founded in 1996 to serve the needs of criminal justice agencies locally, statewide, and throughout the nation to facilitate research in the administration of justice and the nature of criminal behavior. The Center currently has over \$2 million in grants and contracts.

The Faculty Board of the Center consists of recognized experts who are committed to excellence in criminal justice research. The Center offers expertise in a range of areas including survey design, survey implementation, data management, statistical analysis, program evaluation, scientific research, and program planning. The Carnegie Commission ranks the University of Cincinnati as a Research I University, one of only 75 in the nation of more than 5,000 institutions of higher education.

The types of agencies and clients served by CCJR include courts (local, state and federal), police (local, state and federal), probation and parole (local, state and federal), private service providers, Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, National Institute of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Ohio Department of Youth Services, Ohio Attorney General's Office, local counties and municipalities and youth serving agencies.

About Corrections Standards Authority

The Corrections Standards Authority through the Corrections Planning and Programs Division (CPPD) develops, administers and evaluates programs designed to improve the effectiveness of state and local correctional systems and enhance public safety. In carrying out its responsibilities, the CPPD works closely with federal, state and local government agencies, as well as the private sector and nonprofit service providers, to foster collaborative approaches for addressing crime and delinquency. The CPPD provides extensive technical assistance and training to state and local agencies as well as grantees.

About the Administrative Office of the Courts

The Administrative Office of the Courts is the staff agency of the Judicial Council, which is the policy-making body of the California courts. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The AOC is based in San Francisco and maintains three regional offices.

Members of the Best Practices Approach Initiative Implementation Team

Adele Arnold	Tuolumne County Probation Department	Chief Probation Officer
Dr. Amy Bacharach	Administrative Office of the Courts, Center for Families, Children & the Courts	Research Analyst
Ted Baraan	Alameda County Probation Department	Director of Probation

Hon. Steven Basha	Superior Court of California, County of Yolo	Judge
Karen Bell	Juvenile Division, County of San Bernardino, County District Attorney's Office	Chief Deputy District Attorney
Francine Byrne	Administrative Office of the Courts	Supervising Research Analyst
Elizabeth Howard Espinosa	California State Association of Counties	Legislative Representative
Audrey Fancy	Administrative Office of the Courts, Center for Families, Children & the Courts	Supervising Attorney
Amanda Gibbs	Napa County Probation Department	Chief Deputy Probation Officer
Hon. Donna Quigley Groman	Los Angeles County Superior Court	Judge
LaRon Hogg Haught	Administrative Office of the Courts, Center for Families, Children & the Courts	Associate Attorney
Sean Hosman	Assessments.com	President, CEO
Bobbie Huskey	Huskey and Associates, Inc.	President
Phil Kader	Fresno County Probation Department	Director / Commitment Division
Sarah Kime	Assessments.com	Project Coordinator
John Kohls	Corrections Standards Authority	Research Consultant
Martin Krizay	Imperial County Probation Department	Chief Probation Officer
Ed Latessa	University of Cincinnati, Center for Criminal Justice Research	Professor and Department Head
Brian Lovins	University of Cincinnati, Center for Criminal Justice Research	Senior Research Coordinator
Connie Lucero	Corrections Standards Authority	Corrections Consultant
Patty Mazzilli	San Joaquin County Probation Department	Chief Probation Officer
Hon. Julie McManus	Superior Court of California, County of Nevada	Judge
Don Meyer	Chief Probation Officers of California Sacramento County Probation Department	CPOC President Chief Probation Officer
Karen Pank	Chief Probation Officers of California	Executive Director

Troy Parke	Assessments.com	Project Manager
Winston Peters	Los Angeles County Public Defender Office	Assistant Public Defender
Celsa Snead	The Mentoring Center	Executive Director
Eleanor Silva	California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice	Case Services Administrator
Colleen Stoner	Corrections Standards Authority	Field Representative
Heidi Szakala-Porter	Merced County Probation Department	Superintendent of Juvenile Hall
Marlon Yarber	Corrections Standards Authority	Deputy Director

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