



“Chemung County Criminal Justice Study Receives National Award”

Thursday, August 23, 2007

ELMIRA –The Governmental Research Association (GRA) recently awarded The Center for Governmental Research (CGR) it’s ‘2007 Most Distinguished Research Award’ for its report, *Strengthening Criminal Justice Practices in Chemung County, NY*. The study was funded by Chemung County to assess the County’s criminal and juvenile justice system practices to determine their impact on the County’s jail and detention populations.

The award was presented August 8th at the GRA Annual Conference held in Denver, Colorado. GRA, founded in 1914, is the national organization of professionals engaged in governmental research.

GRA holds its annual awards competition to recognize exceptional research and educational efforts regarding state and local governmental issues. The Most Distinguished Research Award category is based on the challenge of the subject matter, the degree to which the study was groundbreaking, and how well the basic purpose of the report is carried out.

In presenting the award, GRA Award Committee Chair, Ryan Horton, noted, “The CGR report provided comprehensive guidance of the highest quality and an extensive review of challenges and solutions.” “It’s excellent work,” he added, “that is having an impact for the county.”

Donald E. Pryor, PhD, who directed the award-winning study for CGR said, “This is truly a shared award. It would not have been possible without the vision and leadership of Chemung County Executive Thomas Santulli and Deputy County Executive Michael Krusen and the tremendous support and cooperation of many members of the county staff

and criminal justice community. Once our report was complete, county leaders took immediate steps to start quickly down the road to implementation and action. It is a pleasure working on a study that leads to improvements that benefit the entire county.”

“The CGR report has proven to be a tremendous asset in identifying steps which the County can take to streamline our service delivery system and thereby reduce cost,” said Tom Santulli, Chemung County Executive. “The County began implementing CGR’s recommendations last summer and have already seen positive impacts and cost savings.”

The report can be viewed by clicking [here](#) or by going to the CGR website at www.cgr.org.

CGR will be returning to Chemung County in September to meet with various county officials to review the progress of the initial recommendations and to provide additional recommendations for follow-up.

CGR, which has offices in Rochester and Albany, is a nonprofit corporation that has served the public interest since 1915. CGR works to inform and empower government, nonprofit, and business leaders who seek to affect the quality of life in their communities.