

INTRODUCTION

The USAID/Mexico Rule of Law Program and MSD/Proderecho worked to further the march toward the new system of justice reform during the Third Quarter of 2008. The states of Chihuahua and Oaxaca as leaders of the justice reforms continue to be jettisoned into more wide ranged and progressive reform implementation with the support of the State Attorney General of Chihuahua and the President of the Superior Courts of Oaxaca. The President of the Superior Court, Hector Anuar Mafud Mafud declared that “it is known that oral trials are good, they do away with many aspects of corruption and address the procedural questions of the crime in question” (Tiempo, Tuesday April 21, 2008, Oaxaca, Oaxaca).

Morelos and Zacatecas also requested assistance in multiple training and technical assistance, in hopes of being ready for fuller implementation. There was an increase in activity in Morelos, as they move toward implementation in October. Of particular focus was the effort to work toward justice for adolescents and the juvenile justice system reforms. An analysis of the current functions of the justice system operators and the need to train those operators in juvenile justice became a particularly important goal in Chihuahua, Oaxaca, Morelos, and Zacatecas. On April 22, it was reported in the *Imparcial*, a daily newspaper in Oaxaca, that the Prosecutor Specializing in Justice for Adolescents, part of the Office of the State Attorney General for Justice could be counted upon to find the appropriate and necessary information to detain minors who commit a crime. The recognition that this is a new system of criminal justice that is distinguished by its attention to *salidas alternas*, efforts to mediate a solution and solve conflicts in a peacefully manner, places Oaxaca on the vanguard of achieving justice for both its adult and juvenile offenders.

Justice operators from both Morelos and Zacatecas have requested training in restorative justice and alternative justice methods in hopes of developing their own centers for *salidas alternas* after conducting observation and study tours to Chihuahua and Oaxaca. Baja California moved toward developing their existing community policing project, and requested technical assistance from PRODERECHO.

During the week of April 7-11, the Observation Tour of Washington, D.C. was attended by several individuals from Chihuahua, Oaxaca, Morelos, Zacatecas, and Baja California. Guests included Attorneys General, Secretaries of Public Safety, Prosecutors, and Defense Attorneys.

The observation tour to Kentucky during April was also an earmark trip, and individuals from Chihuahua, Morelos, Zacatecas all benefited from their visit and exposure to court administration and management.

In addition, the trip scheduled by the Attorneys General of Baja California and Chihuahua to Ireland to participate in the International Association of Court Administrators (IACA) promoted the work being done in Mexico on a worldwide platform, solidified Mexico's place as a country on the move toward justice reform. Attorney General Patricia Gonzalez was unable to attend at the last minute, but her work was acknowledged and she was hailed as a powerful agent of change in the justice system in Mexico. In addition, the interchanges with individuals at the conference in April verified that attention to case management and court administration would be a goal for Quarter Four.

Legislation and Justice Reform

Proderecho Coordinators met with a number of officials from the three powers of government and from a variety of states to continue technical support toward legislation and implementation of the new justice reforms. Proderecho assisted in the preparation of a document which captured the proposed constitutional reforms from diverse Congressional political parties in order to assist in generating consensus of the Legal Reforms.

The three states moving toward implementation have developed Committees for the Implementation of the Criminal Code of Procedure which include high level officials who focus on monitoring the progress and moving forward the march toward implementation of oral trials in Morelos, Zacatecas, and Baja California

Durango and Sonora are receiving technical assistance from Proderecho in their efforts to draft the legislative changes for the reform package while Tamaulipas, Jalisco, Aguascalientes, and Coahuila are states which have worked on their comprehensive reform packages and are receiving assistance from Proderecho as well. Other Mexican states including Nuevo Leon, Puebla, Veracruz, and Estado de Mexico are receiving information and assistance in the new system of justice as they see the progress being made by those states already integrated.

The President of the Superior Court for Justice of the State of Oaxaca, Magistrate Héctor Anuar Mafud Mafud met with Proderecho Oaxaca Coordinator and other dignitaries who serve as trainers at the Superior Court for Justice in Oaxaca to continue the collaborative networking that exists within the state.

Baja California approved amendments September 30, 2007 but gave itself a more extensive time to work in the drafting of secondary legislation to better prepare for implementation because of the change in administration of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government. The new operators of the state government have moved rapidly in the quarter to prepare the state for implementation.

Zacatecas approved reforms to its code of criminal procedure in mid July, 2007 but has been more conservative in terms of the time to implement the reforms. During the first two quarters Proderecho disseminated and socialized a wider public on the reforms through seminars, general training of key actors, observation tours of public officials to observe Chihuahua's criminal justice system, and discussions with experts on the criminal justice system from Chihuahua and Oaxaca. The state's new Governor has pledged to move forward with the reforms.

The work of Proderecho in supporting the continued movement toward legislation of the justice reforms for Mexico is evident. The support for states like Chihuahua and Oaxaca which are implementing the new system continues with vigor, and support for states like Morelos, Zacatecas, and Baja California which are committed to move toward implementation make it necessary to prioritize their needs for the upcoming Quarters. As ever, Proderecho continues to provide training and technical support to those states that express an interest, with priority given to those states implementing, legislating, or drafting the reforms.

International and Interstate Events

MSD/Proderecho continues to work collaboratively and build relationships with state governments, universities, non-governmental agencies, international institutions, and international governments. The officials of the 3 state governments who are poised to implement the reforms within the third and fourth quarters have actively participated in establishing collaborations and linkages with implementing states, national and international universities, international governments from Chile, Columbia, the British Embassy, and the U.S. Collaborations with national institutions such as Instituto Nacional de Lenguas Indigenas (INALI), and the Red Nacional A Favor de los Juicios Orales Y Debido Proceso Legal (RED) and international institutions such as IACA (International Association of Court Administrators), CWAG (Conference of Western Attorneys General), NAAG (National Association of Attorneys General), SEALS (Southeastern Association of Law Schools), NITA (National Institute for Trial Advocacy), USMBA (United States Mexico Bar Association) are but a few of the associations that MSD/Proderecho has encouraged and groomed.

Agreements with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to provide training for Mexican law enforcement officials through its Robert Presley Institute of Criminal Investigation Vehicle Theft Investigation Foundation Specialty Course is an example of the collaborations with U.S. law enforcement agencies.

The states involved in the reform at varying levels of progress also formed collaborative linkages amongst each other. Government officials from Morelos, Zacatecas, Baja California, Jalisco, and Sonora visited the state of Chihuahua to receive training from the Chihuahua State Attorney General's Office in the areas of police investigations, forensic evidence collection, and procedural skills in the new justice system. Police, prosecutors, judges, and defense attorneys from these states toured the forensic laboratory in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua and received training in the use of forensic evidence for use in prosecution of crimes. Members of the Supreme Court of the state of Oaxaca visited Zacatecas to share information regarding judicial advancements. Proderecho Coordinators from Oaxaca traveled to Morelos to lay the foundation for Mediation Centers to practice alternative justice and dispute resolution and the President of the Supreme Court of Oaxaca has shared documents relative to court functions with the state of Zacatecas.

Zacatecas and Oaxaca collaborated in presenting a seminar presented by Magistrate Geminiano from Oaxaca in Zacatecas. The seminar, open to the public had approximately 250 persons in attendance and discussed the changes brought about by the justice reforms. The Governor invited Magistrate Geminiano to dinner as a gesture of thanks.

In another collaborative interstate event, officials from Zacatecas including the Attorney General Ambrosio Romero and the Deputy Attorney General Conchita Garcia, Coordinator of Implementation of the Reform, and Director of the Ministerial Police, Francisco Murillo, visited the city of Chihuahua to learn about the organization and installations of the Chihuahua Attorney General's Office. During the trip they had several interviews with Attorney General Gonzalez and the Coordinator of the Reform, Cesar Cabello, and the Secretary General of the Governor. They also visited the different buildings and realized the advances and services offered by the Attorney General's Offices in Chihuahua.

In the area of civil society, the National Network (RED) of civil society organizations and governmental institutions continue to work with Proderecho. The RED works to monitor the reform as well as support Proderecho in its efforts to meet the challenge of reaching national implementation of the new criminal justice system in 8 years where as a nation, Mexico will implement oral trials and due process in their criminal justice system. The call of the RED for the establishment of a Federal Commission to assist the states with implementation and training is in operation in the five states that are leading the way in the reform. The Commissions for Implementation also function at the state level and support the federal commission toward the creation and adoption of a National Due Process Law that will help the homogenization of state legislation without violating their sovereignty; it gives states and the federal government a maximum of eight years to draft, adopt and begin implementing criminal justice reforms and; it calls for Congress to provide enough resources for a successful implementation.

The sections that follow describe the activities of the quarter from April 1 to June 30, 2008 and address the areas of legislation and justice reform, international and interstate events, juvenile justice, training and education, alternative justice training, civil society, and evaluation and diagnostics of programs and processes, and address specific activities in the more active states. Each of these topics below describes the achievements and efforts in the states that have made successful and concentrated efforts to participate in the USAID/Mexico Rule of Law Program.

Juvenile Justice

The importance of having judges and litigators who specialize in the Juvenile Justice System is critical in the new system of justice, thus USAID/Proderecho committed its resources during the Quarter to assist states to realize the goal through training and technical support.

PRODERECHO Zacatecas/Aguascalientes Coordinator held a meeting with Magistrate Leonor Varela of Zacatecas whereby the Magistrate spoke of her intent to make changes in the Law for Adolescents and made recommendations to the Deputy Attorney General Maria de los Angeles Chinas of Oaxaca, who also pledged to begin the construction of courtrooms and to address the infrastructure of the courts and the Reform for Adults.

Meetings also involved a reunion with the State Attorney General of Morelos to discuss the low number of prosecutors involved in the courses for adolescent justice, and the implications of such a low number of trained operators of the system. The Morelos Proderecho Coordinator advised the Magistrate of the profiles most suitable as personnel to assist in the planning of a convocation for judges of the adolescent system; the necessary reforms of the system of laws for adolescent justice; and to postpone the implementation of the new system of adolescent justice, as there are no judges selected to sit for cases involving adolescent justice.

Juvenile Justice continues to be a priority in the states implementing and planning to implement the justice reforms. Oaxaca and Morelos will be implementing their Adolescent System of Justice in the next quarter. Proderecho will continue provide technical assistance and training in the field of criminal juvenile justice. PRODERECHO

recognizes that this is an important task as more and more adolescents are getting involved in gangs, trafficking in persons and criminal activities.

Training and Education

During the Quarter, USAID/Mexico staff presented numerous educational seminars designed to offer a better understanding of the new system of justice from the investigative process to the actual oral trial to the termination methods in a system based on oral advocacy. Specialized courses were presented by MSD/Proderecho coordinators directed at the operators of the Criminal Justice System through the use of simulations of oral trials with the objective of receiving feedback and subsequently providing practice sessions with judges, district attorneys, and defense attorneys.

Several courses were presented at the Institute of Social Sciences and Administration at the Universidad Autónoma de Cd. Juárez, on a continual basis, for agents of the district attorney's office who operate the new system of justice in the Bravos Judicial District. Trainings covered basics on the criminal code of procedure. Courses were held throughout the quarter. The objective of the course was to present public defenders an opportunity to acquire technical skills in litigation, practice preparation for an oral trial, and to familiarize them with the latest reforms of the Criminal Code of Procedures. There were 16 participants. .

During the same time period, training for judges of warranty of civil rights was held for judges of the Bravos Judicial District of Ciudad Juarez. The objective of the course was to assist them in resolving their doubts relative to oral trials and to stress the importance of the work judges of warranty have in order to preserve the rights of the individuals brought to trial.

Consultants continued to provide training to operators of the new system of criminal justice from the Attorney General's Office in Ciudad Juarez. The information in the form of lectures on case files and analysis and preparation of investigative statements were based on 6 actual open cases designated by the Attorney General. The consultants continued to assist operators of the new system to understand all the antecedents of the case, to analyze the judicial proceedings, particularly the investigative procedures carried out by the attorney general's agents, in order to establish the acts and who the responsible parties are. Proderecho Morelos Coordinator supervised training by Magistrate Medina of Chihuahua for aspirants of the system of justice for adolescents.

The Medical Forensic Laboratory of the State of Chihuahua continued to serve as a training facility for prosecutors, public defenders, and law enforcement personnel to familiarize themselves with the line of investigation. The training covered preparation for the work of the investigative team, criminal laboratory evidence findings, analysis of interviews, analysis of individual witnesses involved in the cases, psychological assessment interviews, and a review of the protocols for an autopsy. The Center for Criminal Studies of the Attorney General's Office of Chihuahua sponsored continued training for prosecuting attorneys. The purpose of the training was to present the benefits and results of forensic techniques and share the experience of the expert presenter on skeletal forensics.

Training and education of the operators of the new criminal justice system continues to be the major focus of Proderecho Coordinators providing technical assistance. The pace

of training and education is expected to increase during the next quarter as the five states will be in the implementation process.

Alternative Justice Training

An integral and innovative portion of the justice reforms includes the commitment to alternative justice for victims and offenders through mediation and restorative justice. MSD/Mexico Coordinators take a fundamental role in bringing training to the operators of the new system of justice in these areas. Coordinators consistently present courses on Restorative Justice in a series of Modules. The Modules are designed to serve as a foundation for an Alternative Justice Process for both victims and offenders in a more humane and just method of justice. The First Module “Conflict, Communication and Needs” enables participants to reflect critically on general theories of conflict, practice the application of knowledge in exercises of restorative justice, and engage in conflict transformation. The Second Module entitled “Restorative Justice, Origins, Principles, and Programs” exposes participants to the origins, history and concepts of Restorative Justice and how it differs from other types of justice. The Third Module the “Accusatory Court System” introduces participants to the new transparent system of justice. The Fourth Module in the Restorative Justice course of study entitled “The Offender” keeps its focus on the offender’s needs, interests, and emotions during the restorative process. Module Five of the Restorative Justice course focuses on “Community”, with in-depth attention on the restorative process relative to community needs and the follow-up after restorative conferences.

Workshops on the Restorative Justice Models, Alternative Methods for the Solution of Conflicts, Mediation and Conciliation were held and planned for the implementing states, and those that are working toward implementation.

Training on Alternative Justice continues to be the focus in the states of Oaxaca and Chihuahua. As the reforms are posed to be implemented in three other states within 2008, 2009, more training will be required. The Restorative Justice team is expanding its training regions within the next two quarters to include Zacatecas, Morelos, and Baja California in comprehensive training.

Evaluative and Diagnostic Procedures

The continuing collaborations within states and other countries assist USAID/Mexico as it monitors its move toward a new criminal justice system and provides a system of consistent training and evaluation.

As the work on the reforms of the justice system in Mexico continue in states that are implementing and have passed the criminal code of procedures into law, it is essential that continual and consistent evaluation of the process and of the technical assistance Proderecho is providing take place. In addition, there are diagnostic procedures that Proderecho administers in order to assess the outcomes of the training and the practice of the justice reforms.

Proderecho staff administered a variety of psychometric examinations to personnel from the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Chihuahua who work at the Center for Alternative Justice and the Unit for Early Intervention of the Office of the Attorney General. The purpose of the evaluations was to assess the knowledge levels of the

personnel working with victims of family violence or other crimes, and to determine what kinds of training are necessary to assist them in delivering appropriate services. Proderecho staff also participated in follow-up meetings after the evaluations at the Center for Alternative Justice in Chihuahua. The purpose of the meetings with personnel from the State Attorney General's Office was to explain the methodology of the evaluations administered and to solicit recommendations for proposed training for the cities of Chihuahua and Juarez.

STATE PROGRESS

AGUASCALIENTES

A discussion relative to the system of justice for adolescents was held where the principles and characteristics of Article 18 of the Constitution. The discussion was organized by the state legislature and former members of the law faculty of the law school at UNAM for the purpose of discussing the new system of justice, its development in state systems, and the structural and legislative reforms.

BAJA CALIFORNIA

May 1-3 Consultant Ron West facilitated a workshop for a group of (35) persons representing the Office of Public Safety, Tijuana Police, Tecate Police, and Baja State Police, among others present. The presentation, plenary discussions and exercises focused on the sale and use of illegal narcotics which was identified as the top priority problem.

Tijuana local police were present and included not only command staff but line officers, all with many years of experience working on the street. Additionally, in discussions with representatives from the Attorney General's Office, state and local police and other authorities are accustomed to working together.

In the early evening a local police to tour several communities with high rates of crime and violence, including 10 de mayo, Zona Norte, El Florido I y II, Valle Verde, and Mariano Matamoros. Dr. Alavez, Gilberto D. Gonzalez Solis and staff were conducted.

In a meeting with Secretary for Implementation of the Reforms, Gonzalez and staff discussed priorities for crime prevention and reduction in Baja California.

On May 2, a presentation on efforts to date by the Secretary of Public Safety that incorporated many of the most important ingredients for advancing community policing in Baja California was made. Additionally, there were visits to a joint command and operations center, where representatives from all police agencies operating in Tijuana and the military, as well as a psychologist, firefighter, doctor and center command staff, attempt to respond in a coordinated matter to calls from assistance from the public.

Meetings with the Tijuana's Director of Public Safety and staff were held to discuss local crime control efforts in Tijuana. While the civilian side of the facility appeared to be relatively well maintained, the adjoining police station, which is headquarters for local police appeared more dilapidated and in need of some refurbishing.

An afternoon meeting was arranged with the president and representatives of the Tijuana Chamber of Commerce, as well as representatives from several NGOs to discuss possible first steps in forming relationships with state and local authorities for the purpose of crime prevention and reduction. Chamber representatives and one NGO appeared highly interested in working with police to address a number of pressing crime problems, including extortion and kidnapping. One representative offered spaces for at-risk youth, who are identified by police, to attend a training center supported by the company for the purpose of increasing its labor force. The broader opportunity to develop a strong working relationship with the Chamber should be exploited in the near-term.

The last two meetings with judges, defense council and prosecutors, as well as court personnel were held to present what roles might be effectively played by each as part of a community policing program. In addition, discussions about the use of court injunctions for abatement of certain types of activities, specifically gang or other low-level organized criminal activity was mentioned. The last meeting was held separately with defense attorneys to gain further insights into the police and workings of the criminal justice system in Tijuana.

CHIHUAHUA

Chihuahua City

During the week of March 31 to April 4, the first portion of inter-institutional instruction and selection for judges and defense attorneys of the 12 judicial districts of the State of Chihuahua was held. The purpose of the institute was to select the personnel who will initiate the criminal reform processes on July 1, 2008. Simulations of oral trials and cases from detention until the case is closed were held to evaluate the practice of those aspiring judges and defense attorneys. Evaluators from PRODERECHO and the Warrant Judge from the Morelos District of Chihuahua evaluated both the candidates for judge and public defenders. A total of 26 women and 34 men were evaluated. The inter-institutional course continued for the selection of judges and public defenders for those 12 judicial districts in Chihuahua during the week of April 7-11 with 22 women and 31 men.

During the week of March 31 to April 4, the first portion of inter-institutional instruction on oral trials was held for judges and public defenders of the two judicial districts where the reform begins to take effect on July 1, 2008. There were 15 women in attendance and 20 men in attendance.

During the week of April 28 to May 02, the study/observation tour of the State Police of Morelos continued in Chihuahua for the purpose of training on investigative techniques for use within the new system of justice.

April 28-30 was the continuation of the course on assessment of cases as requested by the Attorney General and which focused on investigation of cases especially selected in order to monitor the selected Unit of Specialized Crimes.

PRODERECHO Coordinator meetings with the Coordinator of Politics and Government of the State of Chihuahua, the Secretary General of the Government, and Coordinator of Implementation of the Reform of the Criminal Process were held for the purpose of

solidifying the collaborative working relationships between the government entities of the State of Chihuahua and PRODERECHO/USAID. The collaboration serves the purpose of supporting the state during the implementation of the reform at the federal level. A solicitation of a meeting with Rule of Law Advisor, Rafaela Herrera and the persons designated by the group to address diverse themes such as evaluation of the reform, what kinds of support does Chihuahua need, Chihuahua as a supporter of states who need training, states which can collaborate and formalize study tours in Chihuahua.

On May 5-6, the continuation of inter-institutional instruction had PRODERECHO Coordinator meeting with a group of agents from the prosecutor's office to participate in the training that evaluates those who aspire to be judges and public defenders. The objective was to review the records of investigation used to explain to the agents the dynamics of group collaboration in investigating a case. On May 6 and 9, the classes continued, covering the topic of oral trials, in order to evaluate the aspiring judges and defenders and not stay to interview them at length.

May 5-9 provided for a continuation of the study/observation tour conducted by the state of Morelos. The group from Morelos was there to study the theme of investigation under the new system of criminal justice. The technical work was presented in order to apply the theoretical principals of investigation. The group visited the forensic laboratory as part of the tour.

The reinstatement of the Conversatorio or seminar-like chat was reinstated on May 9 in Chihuahua and was an occasion to permit scholars to present their viewpoint on the specific theme. The theme chosen for this particular discussion was Reparation As Agreed Upon by opposing parties.

The third section of the inter-institutional instruction and selection for judges and defense attorneys took place on May 12-15 with the objective of evaluation of those aspiring to become operators of the system, when the reform begins implementation on July 1, 2008 in the remaining districts of Chihuahua.

On Friday, May 16 the evaluation and review of the aspiring judges of the 12 districts of the state of Chihuahua were reviewed for their knowledge and abilities to begin working to implement the reforms which go statewide on July 1, 2008. The evaluation lasted 8 hours including the exam.

May 15 -16 provided further inter-institutional works in a special session where participants were informed who was selected based on their written exam and evaluations during the practical part of the training.

Juarez

During that same week, a course entitled "The Procedures of Criminal Investigation and Oral Litigation" was conducted by a PRODERECHO Coordinator for agents of the prosecutor of the Deputy District Attorney of the Zona Norte of Ciudad Juarez. The objective was to present training for trial litigation for the control of detention or termination discretion of cases from the attorney general. The 6 hour training addressed 35 women and 36 men. In addition, PRODERECHO Coordinators conducted an assessment of Agents of the Prosecutor's Office and followed up on specific cases of the Specialized Unit of Investigation for the purpose of following up on actual cases of

the agents to solve problems that have presented themselves, and to assure that the cases are being handled correctly. Of the 17 individuals who were assessed, 15 are women. The course for “The Procedures of Criminal Investigation and Oral Litigation” continued from April 7-11 with 35 women and 36 men, and the continued follow-up with actual cases to solve problems which had presented themselves during the investigation of the specialized unit for investigations found 6 men and 5 women in attendance.

From the 28-30 of April an overview course on the Law for Justice Specialized in Adolescent Offenders was held in Ciudad Juarez for future operators of the adolescent system. April 28 was the day the course concluded for agents of the prosecution assigned to the criminal courts of the system of justice prior to the reforms.

Also on April 28 – 30, a course presented in Cd. Juarez addressed “Community Policing” directed at key personnel of the Attorney General’s office. Outside Consultant Ronald West established a dialogue to explore the possibilities of developing a community policing project.

April 28-30 the course “Procedures of Investigation based on Criminal oral Litigation” for the purpose of responding to questions, provide feedback relative to the practices of methods for investigation, provide opportunities to practice what has been learned regarding control of detention, litigation to an audience, and experiences with detained prisoners. Participants received feedback on their practice and application of principles.

On May 6-9 a course in Restorative Justice for the Municipal transit system operators and facilitators of the Centro de Atencion a Victims of Cd. Juarez helped to expose these individuals to the basics of restorative justice.

On May 9 a course on organization and function of specialized units and the training was geared toward future operators of the system of specialized justice, particularly for those working with adolescents breaking the law.

A class on resources available was directed at the magistrates and secretaries of the regional courts of the Superior Court for Justice was held on May 6. A continuation of the course on restorative justice directed at personnel of the department was provided. An additional class on the 6th was presented to the theme of restorative justice as well in order to provide skills and support in managing technical conflicts with the mechanisms of restorative justice.

The continuation and conclusion of the course “Organization and Function of Specialized Justice” took place in Cd. Juarez and formed part of the program of training directed at future operators of the system of justice specializing in adolescents committing crimes. The goal was to create an understanding of skills and abilities when working with adolescents that will help in working their cases in court.

DURANGO

Meetings held the week of May 24 with the Secretary General of the Government of Durango, the State Attorney General, the President of the Court, the congressperson and president of the Grand Commission, and a coordinator for the governor resulted in a general plan for implementation for the new system of criminal justice for the state of Durango.

The Governor expressed his desire that the reform toward the new criminal code of procedure in Durango would be a model, and for that reason, he wanted to create an institute which would monitor the implementation process as the state moves toward implementation in March of 2009. The invitation to PRODERECHO staff to be present during the organizational meeting where they discussed the rules for their “institute” of implementation required PRODERECHO coordinators to explain the process to move toward implementation, and this the state was not aware of some of those issues. The Secretary General vowed to speak to the press and may or may not be ready to promote the reforms in the appropriate steps or pace.

JALISCO

Students were given a look at the master of criminal science from the University Cuahutemoc of Guadalajara, Jalisco specializing in adolescent justice. The objective is to draw individuals both young and old into a discussion regarding the reform process. On May 8 a conversation that introduced visitors of other programs to the reform took place. Students in the area of justice were invited to participate in a discussion of introduction to the reforms. A second meeting, based on the court specializing in adolescent behavior was scheduled that same day and the talk was directed at visitors, and finally a third meeting that looked directly at the courts and adolescents was designed to encourage those in the audience to participate on these conversations in order to generate interest, knowledge, and debate relative to the new system of justice.

MORELOS

PRODERECHO staff was present at meetings held on April 24 and 25 in Morelos to set up the plan for the implementation of the Center for Alternative Justice to support the personnel of the Office of the Attorney General.

A course on skills for oral litigation was given on April 7-11 in Cuernavaca, Morelos supported by the Attorney General for Justice within the state of Morelos, with the objective of developing in the participants the skills of oral litigation required in an oral trial.

On April 7 a meeting with Magistrate Miguel Angel Falcon was held for the purpose of supporting the magistrate to acquire his visa to attend the Dublin Conference. Another meeting held on April 11 to attend the academic program which trains in the substantive law and the Criminal Law. The results were psychometric and toxicology tests.

On April 7-11 a course on litigation skills for attorneys was held for 40 lawyers, members of the bar, and prosecutors in order to understand the skills of litigation so they will be prepared when the state of Morelos initiates implementation of the reform approximately the 30th of October.

A series of meetings held in Morelos with the PRODERECHO Coordinator addressed a variety of issues such as the April 1 meeting addressing justice for adolescents, where a course was coordinated to present Restorative Justice in order to sensitize operators of the system working with adolescents. Another meeting on April 1 with the Director of Assistance for Victims of Crime in the Attorney General's Office was held to discuss the installations and utilization of the Center for Restorative Justice and conduct an

evaluation as well as engage in the process of restorative justice. Another meeting on April 1 was held at the Palace of the Governor and was held for the purpose of signing the accords agreed upon by various operators of the system. Meetings on the second of April were held to address the Solicitation of a long course which covers oral trials and provides assistance in changing the curricula and materials; other meetings with the Courts and personnel from the Attorney General's and the other functionaries was held to assist in planning for attendance to group observation or study tours to Washington, D.C. or Kentucky. On April 4 meetings were held to analyze the jurisprudence of the Supreme Court and of the Nation with operators of the system.

NUEVO LEON

On April 10-11, the First Congress for Mediation of Copamex was held in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon and a PRODERECHO Coordinator participated as presenter and spoke about Restorative Justice. The coordinator spoke for 40 minutes, the conducted practica for the attendees so they better understood restorative justice. There were approximately 350 participants (210 men and 140 women) from businesses, political functions, and students. The importance of understanding Restorative Justice in the oral adversarial system of law only helped to present the principals and models of restorative justice, as well as the differences with mediation. The training was so successful that the director of the judicial government of the State of Nuevo Leon, Attorney Jesus Humberto Garza Guerrero requested more assistance in restorative justice as he noted the importance of restorative justice and in order to achieve peace. He urged businesses to reflect on the advantages of restorative justice and asked that they encourage more active participation along with the organizers of the event. The organizers were invited to participate in a national event on restorative justice to be held in September, 2008 so they might focus on the theme of Restorative Justice and be able to express their knowledge to the business leaders of the community.

On May 12-15, the visits of police from the state of Morelos to the state of Chihuahua concluded and this exchange generated information on the investigations as they are to be conducted under the new system of criminal justice for police from Morelos.

OAXACA

"The Monitoring and practice of Mediation" course was held for mediators, and facilitators of conciliation and restorative justice at the Center for Restorative Justice in Oaxaca for the purpose of evaluating the carrying out of these processes by personnel. The course was held for the duration of 30 hours from April 7 to 11. On April 8, Professor Rodrigo Cerda and the judges and defense attorneys of the Adolescent system of Justice held a conference for the purposes of discussing the advances that have occurred in Oaxaca relative to the Criminal Reform Process. A meeting with the personnel of the Office of the Attorney General for Justice of the State of Baja California and the Office of the Attorney General for Justice of the State of Oaxaca was held in order to further the discussions relative to the implementation of the Criminal Procedural Reforms. In addition, the members of the Superior Court for Justice along with the Office of the Attorney General for Justice of the State of Oaxaca assisted the personnel from the Office of the Attorney General for Justice of Baja California in seeing the functioning of their offices within the reform process. Finally, on April 10, a meeting to evaluate the work done relative to the justice reforms was held in Oaxaca.

With the entrance of oral trials in the Mixteca region coming up in September, 2008, the Oaxaca Bar of Attorneys support and sponsor the trainings leading up to the effectiveness of the new process for justice according to Francisco Angel Maldonado, the president of the organization. He declared that members of the association support the establishment of the oral trials in the entire state, following their initiation in the Istmo de Tehuantepec and sees it as a challenge for independent litigators, but notes that the citizens will have access to justice in a speedy and fair manner.

The Deputy Attorney General for Justice for Adolescents, Maria de la Luz Candelaria Chinas was charged with providing a series of training to public servants in the different municipal entities. The training included agents of the public ministry, the commander of the Prosecuting Attorneys who specialize in justice for adolescents, and other functionaries of the municipalities of Zaachila, San Bartolo, Coyotepec, Santa Cruz Xoxocotlan, Santa Maria Azompa, Santa Lucia del Camino and San Agustin Yatareni.

The Superior Court for Justice in the State of Oaxaca offered a major conference in the System of Justice Specialized for Adolescents and the Accusatorial Adversarial System of law. Magistrate Juan de Jesus Vasques Uridales, representing Criminal Court 1 proposed that Oaxacan youth can count on a system of justice.

A meeting was held on April 21 to set up the training for the Mixteca region between a PRODERECHO Coordinator and Attorney Jacobo Sanchez Lopez. April 22, 24 through 25 were dates for PRODERECHO staff to hold meetings with attorneys who wanted to discuss the course on criminal rights imparted by the defense attorneys of the Mexteca region. On the 24-25 there were 15 men and 10 women present as the public defenders worked to hone their litigation skills.

April 28 and 29 PRODERECHO staff monitored and evaluated the practices on Restorative Justice with a group that had participated in the training. On April 30, a conference entitled "Actual Tendencies of Juvenile Justice in Latin America", which was presented by Dr. Mary Beloff. Topics discussed relative to taking on Criminal Justice for Adolescents in all of Latin America. On May 2, a meeting with the facilitators of the Center for Alternative Justice of the state of Oaxaca was held for the purpose of constructing a model that permits the management of criminal material.

May 6 there was a presentation of a book "Vision of the New System of Criminal Execution". On May 8 there was a reunion with PRODERECHO staff and an attorney who inquired as to the object of defining the last details needed to initiate the Mediation center, and hopefully emulate them. Finally, the third and last reunion, was held from May 6-9, as a course in Restorative Justice for the Municipal transit system operators and facilitators of the Centro de Atencion a Victims of Cd. Juarez.

On May 16 the first University Seminar of the New Criminal Procedural Code of Oaxaca was presented under the theme "Specialized Cases", and it was presented by Professor Carlos Rios, directed at litigating lawyers and law students with the purpose of explaining a case and the procedures it undergoes, minus the private actions that took place.

On May 20 – 23 a workshop on Mediation was given for Graduates of the Law School Faculty of the University of Mesoamerica with the purpose of introducing the theme of mediation and creating exercises for the groups in which to participate.

On May 20, the PRODERECHO Oaxaca Coordinator and Dr. Elizabeth Hernandez Reyes, the Director and Secretary for Indigenous Affairs met in order to discuss a Project to Create the Institute of Public Defense for the state of Oaxaca.

On May 23 the application examinations for the Prosecutors for La Region de la Cuenca and the Mixteca were completed for the purpose of selecting personnel to train for the operation of the new system of criminal justice in their respective regions.

ZACATECAS

During the first week of April, judges, agents of the attorney general, and public defenders who specialize in adolescent justice met with the objective of evaluating their observation visits to Chihuahua and Oaxaca the previous month. As a result of the visits, the parties involved worked with the Attorney General, deputy attorneys general, and directors of the justice sectors to:

- Create a department within the Prosecutor's office to specialize in adolescents
- Create a center for restorative justice
- Provide major training to the operators of the justice system
- Develop a specialization for more agents for the prosecutors' office
- Confirm the task forces and coordinate with police

On April 3 a defined plan and timeline for implementation for the creation of a center for alternative justice was developed by the office of the attorney general for justice of the state of Zacatecas, with the assistance of the PRODERECHO Oaxaca Regional Coordinator. Additional efforts within the state were held with the Technical Secretary of the Commission for Implementation, Attorney Octavio Macias Solis, the Undersecretary of the Governor, in order to understand the basic principals of restorative justice and their importance in the justice reforms. In a breakfast meeting held, with Magistratge Leonor Varela Parga, President of the Superior Court for Justice, the law for alternative justice was drafted for the state. In addition, support for the implementation of the Center for Mediation of the Superior Court for Justice in the State of Zacatecas was given.

The monitoring of the system of Justice for adolescents and meetings to plan strategies for the implementation of the new system of criminal justice were held the week of April 14-18. A meeting with agents of the prosecutor especially directed at adolescents met to solidify personal protocols. Several officials whose focus is on adolescents and justice were government appointed. The Attorney General for Adolescents from Oaxaca, Directors of Procedures and Jurisdictions, plus a member of the sub commission of implementation met together to plan the implementation strategies.

On May 6 to 9, a subcommittee of the Attorney General met to develop an outlined plan for use with the prosecutor. Moreover, ideas were planned to develop strategies for implementing the reforms.

An introductory course on the new system of criminal justice was presented in order to accommodate the Attorney General, the deputy directors and coordinators, and the individuals who hear about the conference. Finally, Conversations were introduced on the new system of justice, in order to give the audience an opportunity to ask questions or suggest solutions related to the practice of the new system of justice.

The following advances have been realized in Zacatecas and were highlighted during a visit with the Magistrate in Mexico City:

- The importance of the Governor and the Attorney General in the implementation process is key in the implementation phase
- The initiation of Convocatorias or Open Forum Discussions with key individuals from the Courts, the Attorney General's Office, and the Public Defender have begun
- The pre-selection of operators of the system in Zacatecas has begun
- The program or schedule for training is aligned with the new scheme of training set up by PRODERECHO
- Training formerly begins on August 4 on courses of substantive criminal rights, constitutional rights and *habeas corpus*, and institutional charges; this course will be presented for prosecutors, defense attorneys and pre-selected judges
- A timeline has been worked out for training
- A letter of agreement was designed for the operators selected so in the event they choose to leave the training while getting paid their salaries, they will have to pay back some or all of their earnings during their training
- A campaign was designed to assist in moving forward with the reforms and distributing information to the public by the three powers together. The information will be presented by the governor.

CONCLUSION

The number of events reported above enumerates the work of USAID/Mexico during the Quarter from April 1 to June 30, and demonstrate the successes of the project in its different phases of moving toward criminal justice reform in Mexico. The many workshops, trainings, seminars, and meetings are examples of the productivity of the staff as they continue to increase the technical assistance and training in districts ready to join the implementation within those states that have already begun to implement reform. In addition, the PRODERECHO staff continues to expand their reach by working to include states that are close to passing the reforms. The expansion of USAID/Mexico's influence and support is recognized by states that are interested in the march toward justice reform and respected by the Federal government.

Since there are various levels of the justice reforms taking place, staff must work diligently to respond accordingly. For states that are at the entry level, basic inquiries regarding the reform are addressed with fundamental training. Needs assessments are conducted to assist in allocation of resources and to determine the current level of commitment from states inquiring and seeking initial assistance from USAID/Mexico.

For those states that are reviewing and evaluating reforms and are moving toward legislation of the reform package, USAID/Mexico continues assisting with training and technical support to the maximum extent possible. The assistance to review, revise, promote, and pass the reforms continues. For Chihuahua and Oaxaca, USAID/Mexico continues to expand the areas of support and provide training with more depth, so that the system now implemented can be implemented successfully and smoothly. For Morelos, Zacatecas, and Baja California, USAID/Mexico is prioritizing the technical assistance for these states as they move toward implementation in 2008 and 2009.

USAID/Mexico continues to allocate its resources with efficacy and prudence, and targets the states which have committed their personnel, share costs, and continue to move more expansively toward the justice reforms, while continuing to attempt to address requests for assistance by states that are exhibiting political will. It is important however that USAID/Mexico continues to help develop an infrastructure that will provide a solid foundation for legislative, judicial, law enforcement, civil and social, and academic institutions in Mexico; so that the new and transparent system of justice will be embraced, supported, and carried out by the operators and bring civil rights and human dignity to the recipients of the system.