Implementation of Certificates of Relief from Disabilities in Cook County

September 2002

Safer, DePaul University Egan Urban Center, and CARRE research and produce policy paper examining barriers to licensure in Illinois and recommending relief from those barriers.

January 2004

Public Act 93-0207 Enacted. Certificates of Relief from Disabilities (CRDs) lower licensure barrier to 15 professions or occupations removed for individuals with no more than one felony, non-violent, non-sexual conviction. Illinois Department of Professional Regulation (IDPR) required to track certificate data and report annually to the General Assembly.

June 2004

With the support of CARRE and the HIRE Network, Safer seeks funding to test, track, and evaluate implementation of Certificates of Relief from Disabilities.

October 2004

Safer convenes the Certificates Implementation Advisory Group (CIAG) with key CARRE member agencies: Safer/CIAG begin to work with IDOC, Parole Review Board (PRB), Cook County Circuit Courts, Cook County Adult Probation, and IDPR to implement certificates processes.

January 2005

Public Act 93-0914 enacted. Adds three occupations to CRDs, making 18 total professions/occupations.

CIAG Subcommittees develop education/training materials and design data tracking systems.

Safer/CIAG contact other licensing agencies about tracking certificates data.

April 2005

IDOC internal procedures online: (1) CRD education of Wardens, Prison Staff, and inmates; (2) internal process to pre-screen for eligibility and route CRD application to PRB for consideration.

July 2005

CIAG (1) re-engages Adult Probation and Clerk of the Circuit Court; (2) vets PRB application and guidelines for CRDs.

January 2006

PRB guidelines and application for CRD submitted to the Joint Council on Administrative Rules (JCAR) for adoption. (Approval expected June 2006)

April 2006

Adult Probation, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Safer present streamlined process with draft forms to Presiding Judges. Following review and edits by Forms Committee, process and forms adopted by Presiding Judges. Courts/PRB processes and Clerk's tracking system online.