

Forecast/Research Workgroup Meeting

August 15, 2007

10:00 AM to 11:30 AM; CSSD, Room 313, 936 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield

Chair: Linda D. DeConti, Research unit Manager, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, OPM.

Present: Lyndsay Ruffolo, Program Administrator, Institute for the Study of Crime and Justice (CCSU); Judith P. Lee, Esq., Case Flow Mgmt. Specialist, Court Operations; Susan C. Glass, Program Manager and Brian Hill, Manager, Center for Research & Quality Improvement, (CSSD); Kitty Dudley, Correctional Counselor Supervisor, DOC; Richard Sparaco, Parole & CS Manager; BOPP; Gary Lopez and Lois Desmarais, Planning Specialists, Crime Analysis Unit, DPS; John E. Forbes, Assistant Director, and Alyse A. Chin, Assistant Manager, OPM.

Excused: Steve Cox, SAC Director (CCSU); Fred Levesque, Director of Offender Classification & Population Management (DOC); Jerry Stowell, Consultant (BOPP).

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
Introductions and Welcome:	<p>The Forecast/Research Workgroup welcomed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alfred Bidorini, Director of Planning, DMHAS; • Lois Desmarais and Gary Lopez, Planning Specialists, DPS; • Richard Sparaco, Parole and CS Manager, BOPP; • Kitty Dudley, Correctional Counselor Supervisor, • DOC (Covering for Fred Levesque). 	<p>CJPPD Under Secretary will formally invite DMHAS Representative, Al Bidorini to join the Workgroup.</p>	<p>Done.</p>
Agency Updates:	<p>BOPP Rich Sparaco reported that due to the July 2007/Home Invasion, BOPP has been bombarded with requests for information from the media, legislators, and others. BOPP is working with a newly hired DOC Project Manager, Mr. Sumit Sajnani, to assess and address both short & long term needs with the DOC and BOPP data/information systems. Mr. Sajnani is looking at the entire system from payroll to operations. The plan is to replace the BOPP Lotus Case Notes system and merge its information into an integrated and updated DOC system that is currently COBOL based. Currently there is limited querying capability between DOC and BOPP data/information systems. Currently the BOPP has to resort to hand tallying numbers and doing manual cross checking to verify offender parole eligibility dates and other data. BOPP received from CSSD 83,000 names of individuals with Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI) to cross check and verify the existence of current and past PSI.</p>	<p>Each agency representative will bring a brief written agency update to future meetings for distribution.</p> <p>It was agreed that Linda DeConti and Alyse Chin would set up a meeting in the near future with Jerry Stowell and Rich Sparaco regarding their monthly report, specifically how data is collected and how to calculate and generate reports (SAS programs from what we know). BOPP will share actual numbers, historical and current data, developed with OPM. We will also work to make this report available electronically online in PDF format.</p> <p>BOPP Monthly Report: Rich Sparaco agreed to remind Jerry to add OPM staff to the distribution list for the Report.</p>	<p>Starting with September 12th meeting.</p>

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<p>Agency Updates (continued):</p>	<p>CSSD: Regarding recidivism data analysis, Susan Glass & Brian Hill reported that getting data from their old docket-based Criminal Record/Motor Vehicle System (CRMVS) has been challenging. They need one unique identifier per client. The Connecticut Criminal Justice Information System/ Offender Based Tracking System (CJIS/OBTS) pulls in data by the State Police Bureau of Identification (SPBI) number, but if client uses an alias, brother or sister's name, or even if different spelling is used, the records cannot be reconciled, and it will appear as if records are for different individuals and not part of the same client's record. CSSD has made progress in getting a high percentage of matches to the State Police database.</p> <p>The evaluation component of each of the Adult Probation special project has formally begun. CCSU will be evaluating the (1) Mental Health Caseloads, (2) Probation Transition Program (PTP)/Technical Violation Unit (TVU) expansion, (3) Intensive Pretrial Supervision Track and (4) New Pilot Project for Youthful Offenders.</p>	<p>Each agency will share any data, progress reports or final reports that are produces with the rest of the workgroup so that we can all be on the same page.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>
	<p>CCSU: Lyndsay Ruffolo reported that the Department of Criminology and Criminal justice recently hired Dr. Stephen Costanza who is trained in crime mapping. Dr. Costanza will be creating maps for the final New Britain Weed and Seed report. It has been difficult to get physical addresses needed for the study but they are making progress. The report will be done by the end of September.</p> <p>Dr. Cox plans to share his methods for upcoming recidivism study with OPM.</p> <p>Lyndsay also reported that she has been fielding a lot of questions from the media, especially the Hartford Courant about the Recidivism and Population Projection Reports. The media inquired because a small discrepancy between the SAC reports and what is presented on the DOC website (it was matter of two clients).</p>	<p>Each agency will share any data, progress reports or final reports that are produces with the rest of the workgroup so that we can all be on the same page.</p> <p>Linda DeConti will ask Dr. Cox to share this with the entire workgroup, since there is keen interest in this from several agencies.</p> <p>OPM also asked that CCSU share any emails by cc: and inform us of any further media inquiries.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Update next meeting.</p>

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Agency Updates (continued)	<p>DMHAS: Al Bidorini reported on DMHAS facilitated interagency data sharing projects including the biennial legislative report that evaluates trends, access and effectiveness of substance abuse treatment using a patented methodology called “Probabilistic Population Estimation” (PPE). Also used is direct linking of individual records across several data sets through matching techniques. Results of a 2006 recidivism study showed that those inmates released to Halfway House or Transitional Supervision and received treatment were less likely to be re-arrested/re-incarcerated. Part of the better outcome was attributed to better recovery supports and community integration. Also the same study supported an earlier PPE finding that a disparity exists in treatment access with proportionately fewer African Americans receiving treatment than other DOC releasees. Further exploration of this disparity is needed. He also reported that he will be working with Linda Frisman, Director of Research at DMHAS, on a study about the cost effectiveness mental health treatment for those in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>DMHAS is interested in methodology used for Recidivism.</p>	Al Bidorini offered to share more information about the Probabilistic Population Estimation” (PPE), including information about the methodology that is used.	By next meeting.
	<p>DOC: Kitty Dudley reported that the Project Manager that was hired (Mr. Sajnani) has been developing a 3 tier plan to address DOC/BOPP needs. A project team is being developed to see the project through to goal accomplishment.</p> <p>Business processes/functions have been identified and meetings have been set up with individual units to outline their processes/needs.</p> <p>It was also reported that the prison population count is rapidly increasing in part due to the Cheshire home invasion, also in part due to an increase in the un-sentenced population and is now hovering around 19,000 inmates, with alternative housing being utilized. The population count is expected to keep going up.</p>	Each agency will share any data, progress reports or final reports that are produces with the rest of the workgroup so that we can all be on the same page.	On-going.
	<p>Court Operations: Judy Lee reported that they too have been responding to requests in the aftermath of the Cheshire home invasion e.g. Court Operations staff is currently in the process of reviewing policies regarding pre-sentence investigation reports.</p> <p>Court Operations has completed Phase 2 of the web access project. All pending court cases are available on their web site. Disclosable conviction information will complete the project which is expected to be finished by February 2008.</p>	Each agency will share any data, progress reports or final reports that are produces with the rest of the workgroup so that we can all be on the same page.	On-going.

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Agency Updates (continued)	<p>DPS: Lois Desmarais was hired to be Gary Lopez's replacement. DPS hopes to refill a recent vacancy for a Research Analyst position in the Crimes Analysis Unit.</p> <p>Gary Lopez reported that most outstanding reports have now been done. Thanks to a grant from OPM, the 2005 Family Violence Report has been published and is available on the DPS website under Crime Reports. The 2006 Family Violence Report is currently being reviewed.</p> <p>Both the 2005 and 2006 Hate Crime Reports are currently being reviewed and will be published soon.</p> <p>The latest version of the annual "Crime in Connecticut" report that is available on the DPS website is 2004. The latest New Haven data received by DPS are for November of 2005; New Haven is down to one person for data quality review and is therefore behind in their data entry. Since New Haven represents about 9% of the crimes in Connecticut, DPS has not completed the 2005 or 2006 statewide reports. Once the December, 2005 New Haven data are reported to DPS, the annual 2005 report will be generated. DPS is currently developing possible strategies for the handling of the 2006 statewide report.</p> <p>In the meantime, New Haven is able to provide information in response to public requests for crime data using computer-aided dispatch (CAD) data. However, the nature of the dispatch calls sometimes changes after officers arrive on the scene of the incident, thereby making it impossible to compare CAD data with the incident data reported to DPS. DPS is able to provide individual police departments with their own crime reports. New Haven has not recently been represented in the FBI federal report "Crime in the US" nor in the preliminary FBI report for the 300 cities in the US with population over 100,000.</p> <p>Gary Lopez expressed interest in the Recidivism Study, and particularly in the methodology used.</p>	<p>The CJPPD Under Secretary has a good working relationship with Police Departments. CJPPD staff to request some help with this issue.</p> <p>Each agency will share any data, progress reports or final reports that are produced with the rest of the workgroup so that we can all be on the same page.</p>	<p>Update next meeting.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p>
	<p>OPM: Linda DeConti reported that there have been information requests to CJPPD as well and she distributed Information sheets that have been produced on "Violent Crime" dated August 8th and "Parole & Incarceration Rates" dated August 3rd.</p>	<p>Each agency will share any data, progress reports or final reports that are produced with the rest of the workgroup so that we can all be on the same page.</p>	<p>On-going.</p>

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OPM Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report:	<p>The August Monthly Correctional Population Report's New Format was reviewed, including the addition of the Warrant Metric Chart and Table submitted by Susan Glass. We talked about deliverables and each agency reviewing their respective content in the report.</p> <p>Gary Lopez complemented the inclusion of Appendix II with the Glossary and Data Counting Rules.</p> <p>Linda DeConti reported that a shorter version of the Monthly Report is being developed.</p> <p>Rich Sparaco suggested that for the next version of the Monthly Indicators Report, we need to be specific in presenting Parole Granting Rates as it can be misleading if looking at only one part of the report. He suggested that information from the Monthly Report put out by Jerry Stowell could be inserted, e.g. percent of sentenced served upon parole; would also need movement codes, and perhaps also look at Violent versus non-Violent offender releases.</p>	<p>Things needed to complete the Monthly Report by Friday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitty Dudley agreed to submit the counting rule for Table 1C and information on Transitional Placement for chart on Types of Community Supervision in CT. • Rich Sparaco agreed to submit information on Special & Transfer Parole for the same chart. • Susan Glass agreed to submit information to make Chart 4C and Table 4C and as accurate as possible, and a brief write up for the corresponding counting rules. <p>The Monthly Report will be posted on our web site by close of business of Friday August 17th at www.ct.gov/opm/criminaljustice/research</p> <p>Upon submission of monthly data, each agency will also provide a brief write-up for inclusion in the Executive Summary section of the report.</p>	<p>All deliverables received.</p> <p>August Monthly Indicators Report posted to web site August 17th.</p> <p>Monthly.</p>
CT Sentencing Task Force:	<p>Third meetings of subcommittees are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday next week. Agendas are being developed in collaboration with Barbara Tombs from the Vera Institute of Justice (project consultant).</p> <p>Representative Lawlor plans to hold hearings in September for inquiries. No specific data/research requirements have been requested as yet.</p>	<p>OPM Research, Analysis and Evaluation staff is available to assist with research as needed.</p> <p>For more information please visit our web site at www.ct.gov/opm/criminaljustice/sentencingtaskforce</p>	<p>On-going.</p>
Annual Offender Re-Entry Strategy Plan:	<p>John Forbes reported that the next Annual Offender Re-Entry Plan will be due to the legislature by March 15, 2008 and that a lot of work still has to be done for this Plan, including getting to the issue of performance-based budgeting, evaluations of criminal justice programs etc.</p> <p>Al Bidorini offered that sometimes if a National study/evaluation/cost analysis has already been done, it might not be necessary to re-create it on a local level, especially if the body of evidence is overwhelming. An example is studies (National and DMHAS) that have determined that 90 days in a continuous treatment program has found to produce the most favorable outcomes (increased employment, reduced criminal involvement etc). So again, if the body of evidence already exists then we should use this and not recreate the effort.</p>	<p>We need to begin to catalogue which programs have been/are being evaluated. Asked for everyone's resources for proving what programs work.</p>	<p>On-going.</p>

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Recidivism and Prison Population Projection Annual Reports – 2008:	Steve Cox and Lyndsay Ruffolo to meet with Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division staff to discuss details about methodology etc. for these Annual Reports. Lyndsay reported that Steve would like to finalize methodology to be used by Labor Day and start data collection soon after that date.	Meeting(s) planned with OPM and CCSU. Linda DeConti to share methodology proposed by CCSU with entire workgroup for review and discussion. Recidivism study - SAC and CSSD: More information still needed on this project.	Update next meeting. Update next meeting.
Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) Annual Conference:	JRSA Annual Conference is schedule for October 11-12 in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Workgroup members were encouraged to attend (as funds permit) since it is an important conference for the work that we all do. Lyndsay reported that Steve Cox was asked by JRSA to participate in a round table discussion on state data workgroups. He will also be presenting last year's correctional population projection study on Friday afternoon – October 12 th .	Linda DeConti offered to email conference information out to Workgroup members after the meeting. Also, OPM asked to see presentation and content.	Done. ASAP.
Meeting Schedule:	Sept 12 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at MacDougall-Walker Correctional, 1153 East Street South, Suffield. There will be a brief tour of the facility, for those interested, immediately following the meeting. Oct. 17 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Court Operations, Spring St., Wethersfield. Nov. 7 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – CCSU, Robert Vance Academic Center, Room 466, New Britain. Dec. 12 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – CSSD January, 2008 10:00am – 12:00 pm - CVH, Page Hall, Middletown.	If you've agreed to host one of our future meetings please let Alyse know which room you've confirmed. Our meeting schedule is posted on the CJPPD Calendar on the OPM web site or visit our Forecast/Research Workgroup web pages at: www.ct.gov/opm/CriminalJustice/ForecastingWorkgroup .	