

Forecast/Research Workgroup Meeting
 MacDougall-Walker C.I., 1153 East Street South, Suffield.
 September 12, 2007
 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon

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

Present: Al Bidorini, Director of Planning, (DMHAS); Steve Cox, SAC Director (CCSU); Fred Levesque, Director of Offender Classification & Population Management (DOC); Judith P. Lee, Esq., Case Flow Mgmt. Specialist, Court Operations; Susan C. Glass, Program Manager 1 and Brian Hill, Manager, Center for Research & Quality Improvement, (CSSD); Richard Sparaco, Parole & CS Manager; (BOPP); Jerry Stowell, Consultant (BOPP & DOC); Lois Desmarais, Planning Specialists, Crime Analysis Unit, (DPS); and Alyse A. Chin, Assistant Research Manager, (OPM).

Excused: John E. Forbes, Assistant Director, CJPPD, OPM; Lyndsay Ruffolo, Program Administrator Institute for the Study of Crime and Justice (CCSU); and Gary Lopez, DPS.

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Introductions and Welcome:	The Forecast/Research Workgroup welcomed Ivan Kuzyk, U.S. Attorney Office/Consultant. Ivan gave a brief personal introduction including the fact that his work history included Trinity College and Project Safe Neighborhoods. He has also developed a Violence Severity Index (VSI) of the most serious offenders (gun crimes) in Connecticut.	None at this time.	Update next meeting, as needed.
Agency Updates:	BOPP: Rich Sparaco reported that BOPP continues to address and process questions in the aftermath of the Cheshire home invasion/murders. Chairman Farr testified at a hearing on September 11 along with DOC Commissioner Lantz. The lack of queryable data to conduct research, analysis and evaluation is becoming more problematic. Staff are hand tallying small data subsets by pulling paper files which leads to reports that are not very credible and verifiable. The current Lotus Notes case management system is not queryable or supportable. BOPP has continued approximately 250 cases due to lack of information e.g. pre-sentence investigation reports (PSI), police reports and transcripts, needed for full board and administrative reviews. The number of total hearings done for August is down dramatically, and September cases have been continued as well.	Please remember to email a copy of agency update before or after meetings to Linda DeConti and/or Alyse Chin. Linda DeConti, Alyse Chin, Jerry Stowell and Rich Sparaco set up a meeting to specifically review how data is collected and how they 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 with them to make this report available electronically online in PDF format. Report back to Forecast/Research Workgroup as needed.	Each meeting. Meeting scheduled for 10/4 at 9:00 a.m. in Jerry's office.

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<p>Agency Updates (continued):</p>	<p>CSSD: Susan Glass and Brian Hill reported that:</p> <p>1. Effective September 17, 2007 a modified case classification system will be implemented. This modification to the existing classification system is based on independent research and an examination of data produced from a recent research initiative in which we, (CSSD), analyzed Level of Supervision Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) information for nearly 8,000 Connecticut probation clients.</p> <p>The research data revealed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administratively monitored clients are the least likely to be rearrested. • Medium-Risk clients re-arrest rates are lower than High-Risk clients. • High-Risk clients who score 25-28 on the LSI-R are re-arrested at similar rates to Medium-Risk clients. • Re-arrest rates increased dramatically for probationers in the High-Risk category, scoring higher than 28. • Re-arrest rates for probationers in the Surveillance category are essentially equal to the re-arrest rates for those in the High-Risk category, scoring higher than 28. <p>As a result of these findings – CSSD is adjusting the LSI cut off scores to the following: High: 29 and above; Medium 22-28; with Administrative Supervision remaining at 0-21.</p> <p>2. Following legislative appropriation in spring 2007, additional officers (~60) will be hired in October to staff the expanded PTP and TVU special programs and Youth caseloads.</p> <p>3. A recidivism outcome report is in the final stages of development and will be rolled out to the field this fall. This report is derived from the data in our recidivism database. This database is the product of a collaborative long term relationship between CRPAQI and Tom Myers from the Department of Public Safety.</p>	<p>Please remember to email a copy of agency update before or after meetings to Linda DeConti and/or Alyse Chin.</p>	<p>Each meeting.</p>
	<p>CCSU: Dr. Cox had to leave early, so we spent his time reviewing the research design for the Recidivism Study, and plans for the Prison Population Projection Study (see relevant discussions below).</p> <p>Steve Cox will also be assisting with collection and analysis of the Burglary data for the Sentencing Task Force presentation.</p>	<p>Please remember to email a copy of agency update before or after meetings to Linda DeConti and/or Alyse Chin.</p> <p>Any Minutes for the weekly meetings regarding production of Recidivism and Projection Studies will be posted on our web site.</p> <p>Steve and Lyndsay are also preparing a comprehensive list of all their projects statewide, for distribution.</p>	<p>Each meeting.</p> <p>As soon as possible.</p>

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<p>Agency Updates (continued):</p>	<p>DMHAS: Al Bidorini reported the following:</p> <p>1) In August, the Corporation for Supportive Housing sponsored a regional conference on re-entry housing issues for Department of Correction releasees. Those in attendance included DOC, JB-CSSD, DMHAS, and homelessness/ housing agencies. From that conference there was agreement that research on those who cycle between jails and shelters is critical. DMHAS' Research Division will be conducting a study looking at the characteristics of this population to see if housing services can be tailored to stop the recycling of these individuals. This may end up being tied to DOC re-entry housing programs in which DMHAS would be assuming responsibility for a permanent supportive housing component.</p> <p>2) DMHAS' Research Division will be submitting a competitive renewal of a National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Treatment Studies grant at the end of October. Various study proposals are being considered including a collaborative study with the DOC. NIDA is only interested in "implementation" studies, i.e., research on systems change based on evidence-based practices. DMHAS is interested in having this research apply to real-world situations and program development. Several limitations in applied research with the criminal justice population hinder DMHAS' efforts. For instance, the Transitional Case Management study is experiencing some difficulty with prisoners who do not follow up once their immediate needs are met for housing and /or employment. Another DMHAS study, Step'n Out, involves integration of parole and treatment services, with contingency management (small rewards for progress on recovery goals). This study is showing a significant but small positive effect. One difficulty is the recruitment of study subjects. In this case, it is hard to get parolees to agree to research-related requirements such as having additional parole sessions and changing parole officers.</p>	<p>Please remember to email a copy of agency update before or after meetings to Linda DeConti and/or Alyse Chin.</p>	<p>Each meeting.</p>

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Agency Updates (continued):	<p>DOC: Fred Levesque reported that Parole hearings require PSI. August hearings were postponed and September cancelled (only 5 cases). This decrease in people going out on parole will continue till 6-months down the road and the decrease will come at the time of seasonal low at DOC (which is usually from Thanksgiving to the end of January). There are currently 4,028 pretrial inmates and releases are down e.g. 70 inmates on T.S. Approximately 300-400 inmates are beyond their parole dates. DOC is continuing to move qualified inmates to the community, but if they have a history of violence they will be put on GPS/ electronic monitoring/ urine analysis. Jail Interviewing is also moving forward, and pressure is being felt from more community returns to DOC since there has also been an increase in violations. Fred Levesque is working with Larry D'Orsi from Court Operations to get required PSI; currently, only 10-15% of inmates with sentences over 2 years, have PSI and sometimes PSI exist but they are not attached to the files. Legislation may require court to send DOC needed PSI. Additionally, with any influx of information there is no staff available to process and avenues are needed to put processes in place to address these issues.</p>	Please remember to email a copy of agency update before or after meetings to Linda DeConti and/or Alyse Chin.	Each meeting.
	<p>Court Operations: As reported last month Phase II of the web access project was completed, and disclosable conviction information will complete the project which is expected to be finished by February 2008. In anticipation of Phase III, Court Operations has developed a Quality Assurance Program to review the quality of our data. Currently, random sampling of disposed cases, court by court, is being conducted.</p> <p>Court Operations' future plans for system automation include paperless files for criminal and motor vehicle infractions. Court staff, prosecutors and Magistrates in the courtrooms will have access to cases using a lap top computer.</p> <p>Information Access Guideline Training has also been a top priority for Court Operations. Each member of every Criminal Clerk's Offices has been trained on disclosable information that is available to the public.</p>	Please remember to email a copy of agency update before or after meetings to Linda DeConti and/or Alyse Chin.	Each meeting.

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Agency Updates (continued):	<p>DPS: DPS asked some of the contributors to the 2006 Family Violence Reports to review their data, as there were some significant changes in the number of incidents from 2005 to 2006.</p> <p>DPS has also been working with those contributors to the annual Crime in CT Report who have a high percentage of errors in their 2005 and 2006 data. Records with errors are not included in the results. We want to clean up the data as much as possible before New Haven submits their December 2005 data, so that we are able to generate the 2005 Crime in CT report. The errors have accumulated for several reasons, one of which is significant staff reductions in the Crimes Analysis unit. We currently have a research analyst (RA) vacancy, a RA soon to be on maternity leave for approximately 3 months, a family violence office assistant vacancy, a family violence temporary worker whose contract has been extended to November 2007 (Thanks to OPM), a part-time associate RA who will be leaving in December 2007, Gary Lopez's part-time contract will end in December 2007, and limited access (approximately 8 hours per week) to an information technology support person.</p> <p>We are considering generating the 2006 Crime in CT report without complete submissions from all contributors. If we do this, we will include an additional table in the report to show exactly what months of data each contributor has submitted, so that readers will know what data are missing from the statewide results. This approach is consistent with what other states are doing.</p>	<p>Please remember to email a copy of agency update before or after meetings to Linda DeConti and/or Alyse Chin.</p> <p>Brian Austin had a call into Chief Ortiz for a possible meeting to discussion the issue of data submission for the Crime in CT report(s). Linda DeConti will report back next meeting.</p>	Each meeting.
	<p>OPM: Linda DeConti reported that she and Alyse Chin have now scheduled weekly two hour meetings with Steve Cox at CCSU to do the Recidivism and the Prison Population Projection Studies. (See below for more details.)</p> <p>Steve Cox will be doing the presentation on Burglary Crimes and Convictions in Connecticut along with Undersecretary Brian Austin to the full committee meeting of the Sentencing Task Force on October 1st at the LOB.</p>	<p>Forecast/Research Workgroup members are encouraged to attend this presentation. Visit the web site for any updates/changes at: www.ct.gov/opm/CriminalJustice/SentencingTaskForce</p>	October 1, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. LOB Room 2C.

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OPM Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report:	<p>The Draft September Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report had been circulated by email and extra copies were available for distribution at the meeting. Feedback is welcome.</p> <p>It was suggested that the prison population forecast in the Monthly Report include a caveat about possible impact from recent current events and any legislation e.g. Three Strikes, that may be enacted.</p>	<p>Each agency representative will review their respective data/section and send to Alyse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corrections and/or any suggested changes • Submissions for inclusion in the Executive Summary <p>Alyse will add the caveat as suggested.</p> <p>The Monthly Report will be posted on our web site by close of business of Friday September 14th at www.ct.gov/opm/criminaljustice/research</p>	<p>By Friday September 14th</p> <p>Done.</p> <p>Done.</p>
Burglary Crimes and Convictions in CT - request from the Sentencing Task Force:	<p>Linda DeConti distributed the Burglary Data Request from the Sentencing Task Force. There are now 25 questions on our list. There was a general discussion of the fact that criminal justice agencies had very poor management information system capabilities. This fact was also discussed as part of the testimonies of Chairman Farr, Commissioner Lantz and Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney at the September 11th Judicial Committee Public Hearing on Connecticut's Sentencing and Re-Entry Process.</p> <p>The Workgroup went question by question together and each agency representative agreed to provide the data/information needed to answer the list of questions.</p>	<p>Linda and Alyse will revise the questions for clarification, add agencies responsible for providing the data for each question, and post the revised list to the web site.</p> <p>Each Workgroup member will submit their respective data request to their agency as soon as possible and send data/information to OPM no later than September 19, 2007.</p> <p>For updates on the "Burglary Crimes/Convictions in Connecticut Project" please visit our web site at: http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2976&Q=383672&opmNav_GID=1797&opmNav= 46658 </p>	<p>On-going.</p> <p>Data due no later than September 19th.</p>
Annual Offender Re-Entry Strategy Plan:	<p>Discussion tabled for this month.</p>	<p>Tabled for this month.</p>	<p>On-going.</p>
2008 Annual Recidivism Study:	<p>Linda DeConti and Steve Cox distributed the research design and work plan for the 2008 Recidivism Study for discussion. The year for the data has been changed from 2003 to 2004 since 2004 is the first full year of data collection in CMIS. There was positive feedback about the research design. Other feedback from the Workgroup included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Adding Special Parole, Parcom and Re-entry Furlough to the release types, and (2) Re-considering some of the request and due dates 	<p>Linda DeConti will make suggested changes to the research design and work plan as discussed.</p> <p>We will proceed with the work plan. Steve Cox will submit the request for the four DOC data files by September 19th and copy OPM on the request. DOC has been extremely busy so we might have some delay with getting this data request fulfilled.</p> <p>The 2008 Annual Recidivism Study Report is due to the Governor and Legislature on February 15, 2008.</p>	<p>Done.</p> <p>Done.</p> <p>Update on progress of work plan next meeting.</p>

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2008 Annual Prison Population Projection Report:	<p>Steve Cox reported that the research design for this study will probably be much the same as last year's. The methodology used to develop the 5-year and the 20-year projections was a time series analysis using SPSS (AREMA Model). The Colorado SAC developed their own simulation model that replicates everybody in the State's population, using projections from the Colorado State Demographer. We might not have this in time for our report but we need to evaluate the merits of using this type of simulation model to see how the results compare to our current approach.</p> <p>The 2008 report will include projections for all types of community supervision, not just the incarcerated population. Other potential additions to the 2008 study: Median Family Income; School Drop-out Rates.</p> <p>We still need to get to "Length of time served" which historically has been difficult to get and inaccurate.</p>	<p>Steve Cox will follow up with his contact in Colorado to get more details and a copy of their model. Steve will also develop a work plan for the projection study similar to the one for the Recidivism Study, and distribute at the next meeting.</p> <p>The 2008 Annual Prison Population Projection Study Report is due to the Governor and Legislature on February 15, 2008.</p>	By October 17
Meeting Schedule:	<p>Oct. 17 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Court Operations, Spring St., Wethersfield.</p> <p>Nov. 7 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – CCSU, Robert Vance Academic Center, Room 466, New Britain.</p> <p>Dec. 12 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – CSSD.</p> <p>January 9, 2008 10:00am – 12:00 pm - CVH, Merritt Hall, Finkelstein Room, Middletown.</p> <p>February 13, 2008 10:00am – 12:00 pm - CVH, Merritt Hall, Finkelstein Room, Middletown.</p>	<p>If you've agreed to host one of our future meetings please let Alyse know which room you've confirmed.</p> <p>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.</p>	Ongoing.
Tour:	Tour of MacDougall-Walker Correctional Facility (optional).	A special thanks to our host Fred Levesque, DOC Director of Offender Classification & Population Management, who conducted a tour of the Walker Facility. Several Workgroup members participated. It was a very educational and interesting tour.	