

Forecast/Research Workgroup Meeting

CCSU – Student Center, 1415 Stanley Street, New Britain.

November 7, 2007

10:00 AM to 12:00 noon

Co-Chairs: Linda DeConti, Research Unit Manager, (OPM) & Steve Cox, SAC Director (CCSU).

Present: Al Bidorini, Director of Planning, (DMHAS); John Forbes, Assistant Division Director and Alyse Chin, Research Unit Assistant Manager, CJPPD, OPM; Fred Levesque, Director of Offender Classification & Population Management, Kitty Dudley, Counselor Supervisor, and Jody Barry, Research Analyst in the MIS/Research Unit (DOC); Judith P. Lee, Esq., Case Flow Mgmt. Specialist, Court Operations; Jerry Stowell, Consultant (BOPP & DOC); Lois Desmarais, Planning Specialist, Crime Analysis Unit, (DPS); Lyndsay Ruffolo, Program Administrator Institute for the Study of Crime and Justice (CCSU); Brian Hill, Manager, Center for Research, Program Analysis and Quality Improvement, CSSD; and Richard Sparaco, Parole & CS Manager (BOPP).

Excused: Susan C. Glass, Program Manager 1(CSSD); Gary Lopez Planning Specialists, Crime Analysis Unit and Tom Myers, IT Analyst 2, (DPS);

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
Introductions and Welcome:	The meeting convened shortly after 10:00 a.m. Fred Levesque and Lois Desmarais reported that they had to leave at 11:00 a.m. and asked to give their updates first.		
Acceptance of Minutes:	The Minutes from the October 17 th meeting were accepted as written.	If there are any changes please email to Alyse at your earliest convenience. Alyse will post October Minutes to the web site as soon as possible at: www.ct.gov/opm/CriminalJustice/ForecastingWorkgroup	As needed. Done.
Governor's Request regarding Violent Crime in CT Analysis:	There are a couple of letters currently out from Governor Jodi Rell, one to Undersecretary Brian Austin and one to Agency Heads, requesting that an analysis of violent crimes in Connecticut be done and trends identified, and that this be shared with the Governor's Sentencing and Parole Review Task Force in order to assist them with their work. The CJPPD's Research Unit is also working on a piece of this request (see more information under "Information Sharing" below).	John Forbes agreed to send out an email as soon as possible to Workgroup Members with a copy of the two letters. In addition, Workgroup members agreed to identify which data elements their agency would be submitting under which request with a short description of each. The CJPPD will be coordinating the response to the Governor's Task Force.	Done.

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Agency Updates	DOC: Fred Levesque reported that the DOC experienced their all time incarcerated male population high on October 26, 2007 at 19,837. DOC continues to see a reduction in the number of offenders being release on discretionary parole and the transitional supervision release numbers remain flat. Technical violation numbers remain constant. The number of Special Parole violators may become an issue as no new release dates are being set for that population. Pre-trial males have leveled off, CSSD Jail Re-interview counselors helping to keep that population down. There was a slight reduction of approximately 100 offenders in the overall population from the 10/26 high, but this has had minimal impact on the agencies overflow areas.	Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.	Monthly.
	BOPP: Rich Sparaco reported that they are still in the process of reviewing all files in Voted to Parole status and then re-approving for release only if all the required documentations are present. For example, they may have originally had the police report when the case was presented to the Board, but have now found that a PSI was completed, and have not only requested it, but have received it. Also, about 2844 transcripts and 1776 PSI have been ordered for past and current cases. Releases have backed up significantly because of the hold for information - specifically transcripts. Additionally, they are still not authorizing the release of any cases that are designated 85% nor are they scheduling any hearings for these offenders until the Governor's task force advice. Anyone being returned from supervision is being held indefinitely as well. They are awaiting coordination of efforts between judicial for access to their systems, but are still debating the specifics about what information can be viewed (specifically CSSD & juvenile records as well as other reports).	Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.	Monthly.
	DPS: Lois Desmarais explained the difference between the UCR and NIBRS crime reporting methods. DPS continues to work with the vendor with excessive errors. He finally responded to a second letter, but he did not indicate when the errors would be corrected, as had been requested. Therefore, DPS will send letters to the chiefs of police in this vendor's towns, notifying the chiefs of their error rate and that the hope is to release the 2005 annual report soon. DPS has begun planning for a data sharing initiative with 5 towns on the shoreline. The focus is on assisting law enforcement with investigations.	Lois agreed to provide lists of the entities that report using UCR and NIBRS methods. She also agreed to provide the statute that requires law enforcement agencies to report their crime statistics to DPS, and lists of the towns missing from the 2005 and 2006 Crime in the US publications. Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.	Done.
	CCSU: Steve Cox will incorporate his updates into Agenda items numbered 5, 6, & 7 as they are discussed.	Steve and Lyndsay are preparing a comprehensive list of all their projects statewide, for distribution.	

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Agency Updates (continued):	<p>CSSD: Brian Hill reported that in the next month or so, CSSD will begin distribution of case outcome, gain-score, and recidivism reports by probation office. These reports will provide feedback on client outcomes to the field and performance outcome trends to management and executive staff. CSSD is very grateful for the continued efforts of Tom Myers at DPS for his contributions of data to our recidivism analysis. Development of a parallel report for Juvenile Probation is underway.</p> <p>At CSSD the Center for Research, Program Analysis and Quality Improvement continues to provide data collection and analysis to the various committees and task forces, including the Governors Task Force on Parole and Sentencing Reform, the Sentencing Task Force, and the Prison and Jail Overcrowding Subcommittee of the CJPAC.</p> <p>Also, around September 24th CSSD started a project to review 4,000 cases in an effort to reclassify risk levels among probationers. Results (and reclassifications) will be available in December 2007.</p>	Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.	Each meeting.
	<p>DMHAS: DMHAS continues to work with other state agencies and providers to develop draft recommendations for the Alcohol and Drug Policy Council's Information Coordination Committee. A primary focus of the Committee's work is to enhance data sharing amongst criminal justice (DOC, JB-CSSD, Parole) and behavioral health agencies (DCF, DMHAS, UCONN Health Center). The Committee looked at barriers including confidentiality concerns (e.g., no standard release of information form), limitations in timely access to information and lack of staff expertise for data analysis. The committee is recommending a step-wise process, first automating current practices that are fax/paper driven for more speedy access to information, then moving to a more integrated data model. The first phase would focus on offenders released to the community (DOC Halfway House, Transitional Supervision; Parole, Probation, etc.). The second phase would build support for data sharing within the incarcerated population. The recommendations are seen as a cornerstone to advancing and expanding the current jail diversion and offender re-entry programs. A third recommendation was raised that promotes more coordination across agencies, committee, and other advisory groups so that there is better connection between initiatives. The idea would be to have some type of clearinghouse that would inventory these processes and publish updated information (minutes, reports, etc.).</p>	Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.	Monthly.

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Agency Updates (continued):	Court Operations: Court Operations continues with their Quality Assurance initiative with training on changes to the criminal motor vehicle system (CRMVS). These changes will ensure greater accuracy regarding case information that is available on the Judicial Branch website. Disclosable conviction information is still targeted to be available on the website by February 2008.	Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.	Each meeting.
OPM Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report:	The November Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report is still in first draft as some data has not yet been submitted. Please send in your monthly data as soon as possible, but no later than close of business on November 13 th .	The November Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report will be available at: www.ct.gov/opm/criminaljustice/research by the end of business on November 15 th .	Done.
2008 Annual Recidivism Study:	Steve Cox reported that weekly meetings with Linda, Alyse and Lyndsay to work on the 2008 Recidivism Study are held each Thursday at CCSU from 12:15 – 2 p.m. The 4 data files from DOC has been received, thanks Jody, and the file is being prepared to go to CSSD for matching with criminal history files. We should have all the preliminary analyses and results/tables done by the December meeting. We plan to have the narrative section completed by late December but no later than by early January 2008.	Steve will present updates on 2008 Recidivism Study each meeting. The 2008 Annual Recidivism Study Report is due to the Governor and Legislature on February 15, 2008.	2008 Recidivism Study work group meets every Thursday from 12:15 – 2 pm at CCSU.
2008 Annual Prison Population Projection Report:	Steve Cox reported that plans are to do the same basic design as last year, and run the Colorado Model as well.	Steve to develop a work plan for the projection study similar to the one for the Recidivism Study, and distribute to the group for feedback at the next meeting. Steve will work with Jody to get any needed DOC data files by the end of November.	Update at the December meeting.
CT Felony Murder Presentation:	Steve Cox gave a brief summary of his presentation on Convicted Felony Murders in Connecticut in 2004 that was made to the Sentencing Structure Subcommittee of the Sentencing Task Force on October 23 rd . There was only one felony murder in 2004, and most murders were domestic related. One surprise was that some murder charges get nolle and then pleaded down to assault. And it is difficult to tell exactly how many victims there were from the court records. Representative Dyson asked “What do we do to get better information?” Steve recommended that one place to start would be to get OLR, OFA, Program Review and Forecast/Research Workgroup together and figure out the right questions, then get the best information available to answer them.	Steve or Lyndsay will email copy of CT Felony Murder Presentation to Linda/Alyse for posting to the OPM web site.	As soon as possible.

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Annual Offender Re-Entry Strategy Plan:	John Forbes reported that as previously discussed, OPM is mandated to provide an annual Offender Re-entry Plan to the legislature. Exactly what is required in the current climate is uncertain. In general, there is an assumption that there isn't a re-entry strategy, but individual agencies in the criminal justice system work hard to assist in offender diversion and re-entry, so we need to focus on relationship between outcomes and costs.	2008 Offender Re-entry Plan is due to the Governor and Legislature on February 15, 2008.	On-going.
Information Sharing:	<p>1. Governor's Request – Analysis on Crimes in US/CT Linda DeConti reported that the CJPPD Research Unit is currently working on a "Crimes in the United States/Connecticut 2005" study also at the Governor's request. She also distributed a rough draft of the report for this study, and asked for feedback from the Workgroup.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion on the definitions of "violent crimes" used by DOC, CSSD and BOPP, and the lack of one definition for violent crimes for Connecticut.</p> <p>2. Parole Monthly Report – Jerry produces a monthly report on such data as parole eligibility, paroles granted/denied, parole supervision caseload, and parole violations. It was suggested that Jerry share this report with the Workgroup each month.</p> <p>3. Upcoming Judiciary Committee Public Hearing on proposals relating to Home Invasion, Persistent Offenders, Reforms of the Parole and Probation System, and Improvements in the Criminal Justice Communication System will be held on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 at 1:00 in the Legislative Office Building.</p> <p>John Forbes gave a brief overview of these 14 proposals. Kitty Dudley reported that DOC has been reviewing some of these proposals and working to provide reports/statements on the possible impact of these proposals on the inmate population.</p>	<p>Please review the draft report and email any feedback to Linda.</p> <p>Jerry will share the most recent Parole Monthly Report with the Forecast/Research Workgroup each month.</p> <p>Attend if possible.</p> <p>Copies of these proposals can be found at: http://www.cga.ct.gov/jud/</p>	<p>As soon as possible.</p> <p>Monthly.</p>

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Meeting Schedule:	<p>December 12 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – CCSU. Student Center, Blue and White Room, Stanley Street, New Britain.</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><u>We need host agencies for:</u></p> <p>March 2008 10:00am – 12:00 pm</p> <p>April 2008 10:00am – 12:00 pm</p>	<p>If you would like to, or if you've agreed to host one of our future meetings, please let Alyse know where and which room you've confirmed, and send directions as needed. Thanks.</p> <p>Visit our Forecast/Research Workgroup web pages at: www.ct.gov/opm/CriminalJustice/ForecastingWorkgroup</p>	<p>Monthly.</p>