

Forecast/Research Workgroup Meeting
 CSSD – 936 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield
 4th floor Conference Room
 May 14, 2008
 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon

Co-Chairs: Linda DeConti, Research Unit Manager and Alyse Chin, Research Unit Assistant Manager (OPM)

Present: Al Bidorini, Director of Planning, (DMHAS); Amanda Alves, Intern, Cody Hyman, Intern, Sherry Avarista, Executive Secretary, CJPPD, OPM; Fred Levesque, Director of Offender Classification & Population Management (DOC); Lois Desmarais, Gary Lopez, Planning Specialists, Crime Analysis Unit, DPS; Lyndsay Ruffolo, Research Specialists, Institute for the Study of Crime and Justice (CCSU); Brian Hill, Manager and Susan C. Glass, Program Manager, Center for Research, Program Analysis and Quality Improvement, CSSD; and John Lahda, Executive Director (BOPP).

Excused: Steve Cox, SAC Director (CCSU); John Forbes, Assistant Division Director, CJPPD, OPM; Judith P. Lee, Esq., Case Flow Mgmt. Specialist, Court Operations; and Tom Myers, IT Analyst 2, (DPS); Aileen Keyes, Research Specialist; Cheryl Cepelak, Director of Organizational Developments and Strategic Planning; Jerry Stowell, Consultant (BOPP & DOC); Jody Barry, Associate Research Analyst in the MIS/Research Unit (DOC)

Guest: Jill Jensen, Chief Analyst, Scott Simoneau, Principal Analyst (Connecticut General Assembly, Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
Acceptance of Minutes:	The Minutes from the April meeting were accepted as written.	Cody will post April Minutes to the web site at: www.ct.gov/opm/CriminalJustice/ForecastingWorkgroup	Done.
Announcements:	Linda DeConti announced that Alyse Chin has resigned and will be taking a position at DHMAS, Cedarcrest Hospital. Alyse thanked workgroup members and wished everyone well.		
Agency Updates:	OPM: OPM just hired three new interns for the summer. This was Cody's first meeting; she will be assisting with FRW meetings and projects for the summer. The Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division is currently doing interviews to fill the vacancy in the research unit as a result of Alyse's resignation.	None at this time	Monthly.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
<p>Agency Updates Continued:</p>	<p>BOPP: John Lahda discussed the following:</p> <p>By May 21st BOPP would like to work with Judicial to go ahead with parole hearings. They are currently backlogged in reviewing all the documentation necessary for parole reviews. Victims have to be contacted. The Office of the Victim Advocate is trying to hire one person before the state hiring freeze. BOPP also has budget concerns about hiring new clerical employees.</p> <p>Effective July 1, 2008 per Public Act 08-01 there will be no more administrative review hearings for parole, which will probably slow down the parole granting process even more.</p> <p>In March and April of 2008, 59 of 110 cases were approved by the transfer parole. They would like for people to finish at the halfway house before going on parole.</p> <p>BOPP is currently working to streamline the training process for the full panel board members. John Lahda requested that he bring new parole board members to next month's meeting as part of their orientation and training.</p>		
	<p>CSSD: Program Evaluations continue for all adult services pilots (Women Offender Case Management, PTP, TVU, IPST, Mental Health Caseloads).</p> <p>Research Staff are working with Adult Services to develop a "dashboard" performance indicator reports. The reports will provide valuable information for executive management and supervisors.</p> <p>The Connecticut Center for Effective Practice is hosting a presentation on their research findings of the implementation and outcomes of Multi-System Therapy (MST) in CT. It will be held on WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., State Capitol – Room 310.</p>		

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
<p>Agency Updates Continued:</p>	<p>DPS: Problems with the CT State Police (CSP) data are preventing DPS from getting all of the Crime in CT (CIC) annual reports out, including the backlogged 2005 and 2006 CIC reports. There are thousands of CSP arrests that were not entered into the Nexgen NIBRS arrest module, and hence, the NIBRS data that feed the CIC report are incomplete. The arrests are in the CSP Law Enforcement Administration System, so the courts have what they need to conduct business. Crimes Analysis is seeking direction from upper management, as it is a very labor intensive project to enter all of the missing arrests.</p> <p>DPS recently reorganized such that the Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management System (CAD/RMS) unit is no longer part of the same bureau as the Crimes Analysis unit. The CSP data are housed in the CAD/RMS unit. In addition, the Computer Services unit will begin a statewide desktop encryption project soon that could last from six to eight months, thereby further depleting the already minimal IT support available to the Crimes Analysis unit.</p> <p>Four towns did not meet the 2007 deadline for the federal Crime in the US publication: Plymouth (data through October, 2007), Thomaston (data through June, 2007), New London (data through June, 2007), and New Haven (data through May, 2006). Most of the UCR (Summary) agencies and approximately 65% of the NIBRS agencies have submitted data for the first quarter of 2008.</p> <p>All three 2006 Family Violence (FV) reports have been completed and are being proofed before they are posted to the website. Crimes Analysis requires IT support to put their reports on the DPS website because the reports are dynamically generated from a database via the .net code.</p> <p>DPS participated in a conference call on April 25th with Motorola, the vendor for the CT NIBRS repository. Motorola has not yet resolved the discrepancies in the translated arrest results.</p> <p>The FBI conducted an audit in CT from March 18, 2008 through March 20, 2008. Nine agencies were visited: Branford, Cromwell, CSP, East Windsor, Norwalk, Old Saybrook, Stamford, Stratford, and Wethersfield. The report has not yet been sent by the FBI, but the FBI did uncover many of the missing arrests for the CSP account.</p>		

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
<p>Agency Updates Continued:</p>	<p>DOC: Fred Levesque reported that the DOC facility numbers are showing a slight decrease, down 365 from an all time high in February 2008 to 19,529 on April 1, 2008. Pretrial numbers are down 11, but remain fairly consistent. The number of sentenced offenders is down 180 and transitional supervision is up by 71.</p> <p>The new technical violation unit is almost at capacity (100). It is a specialized program with a minimum of two months stay for those with 6 months remaining on their sentence.</p> <p>With the recent decrease in census, DOC has been able to close overflow areas in Cheshire and Osborn.</p> <p>The gang program has seen an increase in capacity. The 94 bed unit at Corrigan is at capacity and they intend to open another unit.</p> <p>DOC is working to redefine assessment instruments to better determine offender risks and needs. DOC has established an Offender Accountability Plan for inmate at high risk of re-offending.</p>		
	<p>CCSU: Lyndsay Ruffolo reported that plans to stay with the 2004 data set used for the 2008 Recidivism Study to determine how these offenders did for the three years after their release.</p> <p>The 2008 CTSAC grant administered by OPM Research Unit was finalized and submitted for approval by Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been finalized between OPM and the CTSAC to collaborate on several projects, for example: develop an input/output model to assist with prison population forecasting, conduct evaluation/ outcome studies, and develop a compendium of Connecticut Criminal Justice Publications and Research Studies. As part of this MOU, there are plans to put a criminal justice research database on the OPM website starting this summer.</p> <p>Also four more recidivism studies are planned that will focus on specific topics not included in the larger 2008 report. OPM and the CTSAC will be examining various prison population projection models in order to enhance prison projections in the 2009 report. The current the straight line model has limited our ability to incorporate the recent spike in the prison population following the Cheshire tragedy. Some alternatives being reviewed include the Profit Model and an Input/output Model. The plan is to bring examples of the models we are exploring to get workgroup feedback to determine what would best for Connecticut.</p>		

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
Agency Updates Continued:	<p>DMHAS: Al Bidorini reported that he has been working with Tom Myers from DPS to resolve issues with arrest records regarding those in the suspense file. These data sets are part of the next Biennial Report to the legislature on substance abuse services. Using a PPE statistical analysis, population overlaps between two or more state agency populations will be reported.</p> <p>DHMAS is in the process of finalizing data use agreements with DCF and CSSD for a data linkage study that will look at children in the child welfare system and those in juvenile justice as they age into the DMHAS adult system of care. Findings will be reported in the 2008 Biennial Report to the legislature.</p> <p>Al is reviewing, with Linda Frisman (DMHAS Director of Research), a National Institutes of Health RFA that involves the linking of administrative data sets. The intent of the RFA is to promote partnerships between state agencies and researchers to explore the use of administrative data sets in evaluating the impact of changes in policies, practices and financing on mental services.</p>		
OPM Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report:	<p>Copies of the Draft May Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report were distributed.</p>	<p>Please send any feedback to Alyse. The May Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report will be available at: www.ct.gov/opm/criminaljustice/research no later than by the end of business on May 15th.</p>	<p>Done.</p>
BOPP Monthly Report:	<p>The 3/1/08 report was distributed. OPM research unit staff drafted a suggested new format. Jerry and John Lahda think the new format would work for their report, but they intend to build on it. They would like to shorten the report from 40 plus pages by potentially splitting it into separate reports that can be posted on the DOC website. They discussed dividing the current report into two or more reports, for example: one for Hearings and Parole and one for Field Reports. They would like to include more data on violation rates and condense the report by putting more charts per page. There is still work to be done on writing a glossary, counting rules, and an executive summary that would include monthly highlights from the report.</p>	<p>Staff from BOPP and OPM Research Unit will work to determine who will continue the joint project on the BOPP Monthly Report.</p>	<p>Update next meeting.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
<p>Follow-up on Presentation at CJPAC</p>	<p>The work group thought that the CJPAC presentation was well received and Alyse thanked work group members for their feedback, which helped to improve the presentation. Jill Jensen and Scott Simoneau agreed that the data was well developed and presented.</p> <p>There are plans to do supplemental reports and there will be further discussion regarding enhancing methodology for these studies at the next meeting.</p> <p>Lois mentioned that she has recently met Dr. Michael Maltz who has experience doing recidivism studies and that he might be helpful to us as we improve the Connecticut recidivism study. His contact information is: Michael Maltz, Phd Professor Ohio State University Dept of Sociology 147 Journalism Bldg. Columbus, Ohio 43210 614-247-6736 Mikem@uic.edu or maltz.4@osu.edu</p>	<p>Most of the agenda for the next meeting will be dedicated to discussion on the recidivism study to be facilitated by Steve Cox.</p> <p>FRW members were asked to revue the 2008 recidivism report and bring any suggested improvements to the next meeting.</p>	
<p>State Substance Abuse Treatment For Adults Study</p>	<p>Jill Jensen outlined the timeline/deliverables associated with the project. Between now and August, Jill and Scott will be having meetings, interviews, and visits to gather data for the project from DHMAS, DOC, CSSD, BOPP. By September there will be briefings and hearings concerning the data. There will be a committee meeting in November or December before a report is presented to the committee by December, 2008.</p> <p>Scott Simoneau outlined the scope of the study. He noted that the areas of analysis include process for intake, practices, procedures, and tools used. They have met with three agencies to begin their study and intend to conduct interviews to determine what data to request. They will include BOPP in this process and has already met with key leadership there.</p> <p>They will keep in mind that agencies have limited budgets, but will make all needed suggestions.</p> <p>CSSD, DHMAS, and DOC are involved in gathering information for this project. Al Bidorini expressed concerns about cross agency contact to keep everyone informed to minimize duplication of efforts.</p>	<p>Jill and Scott have been invited to FRW meetings to update members on the progress of the study and to let us know how we can be helpful.</p> <p>Cody will include Jill and Scott on meeting reminder notices.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
Meeting Schedule:	<p>June 11, 2008 10:00am – 12:00 pm – MacDougall Walker, DOC</p> <p>July 9, 2008 10:00am – 12:00 pm – CVH, Page Hall, Rm. 217, Middletown</p> <p>August 13, 2008 – CVH, Page Hall, Rm. 217 Middletown</p> <p>September 10, 2008 – CVH, Page Hall, Rm. 217 Middletown</p>		