

CJPAC Research Workgroup Meeting

CVH, Merritt Hall, Sid Finkelstein Room

March 11, 2009

10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Chair: Linda DeConti, Research Unit Manager (CJPPD/OPM)

Present: John Forbes, Assistant Division Director (OPM), Ivan Kuzyk, Research Unit Assistant Manager (OPM), Loel Meckel, Asst. Director Forensic Services; Brian Hill, Manager (CSSD); Susan Glass, Program Manager (CSSD); Cheryl Cepelak, Director (DOC), Jody Barry, Associate Research Analyst (DOC); Michelle Altomare, Associate Research Analyst (DOC), Patrick Hynes, Director of Planning (DOC); Kitty Dudley, Counselor Supervisor (DOC), Rich Sparaco, Parole/Community Services Manager (BOPP); Fred Watton, Parole Officer (BOPP); Steve Cox, CT SAC Director (CCSU), Joseph Haggan, Deputy Director (DOC), Rebecca Fleming, Parole Manager (DOC)

Excused: Al Bidorini, Director of Planning (DMHAS), Fred Levesque, Director (DOC), Judy Lee, Case flow Management Specialist (Court Operations); Lois Desmarais, Planning Specialist (DPS), John Lahda, Executive Director (BOPP); Tom Myers, IT Analyst 2 (DPS), Alan Calandro, Section Chief (OFA); Chris Reinhart, Esq., Senior Attorney (OLR);

Absent: Orlando Rodriguez, Manager/CT State Data Center; Charles Martie, Education Consultant (SDE)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
Acceptance of Minutes:	The Minutes from the February meeting were accepted as written.		
Monthly Indicators Report:	The March 2009 Monthly Indicators was discussed and to be completed shortly	DRAFT sent out and under review. Due by Friday, March 13th	
Prison Forecast Model:	Follow-up on the development of a prison forecasting model with the assistance of Dr. Pablo Martinez, at Texas State University. CTMODEL 1.0	Dr. Martinez plans to be in Connecticut next week. Missing data components.	
Annual Prison Forecast Report:	The Final Report was presented at CJPAC, discussed, and now on Website.	PROJECT COMPLETED	
Recidivism Study:	The Final Report was presented at CJPAC, discussed, and now on Website.	PROJECT COMPLETED	
Agency Updates:	<p>BOPP: In February there were 22 regular hearing dates with an average of 13 cases per hearing. There were also 4 hearing dates held for Parole Violations (revocation and rescissions). There were 237 parole grants and 45 denials. The grant rate was 84%. In addition, there were a total of 75 violation hearings of which 59 cases were re-paroled (41 revoked and re-paroled and 18 cases were rescinded and re-paroled). There were 153 reviewed for Transfer Parole (30 Approved, 77 denied and 46 Denied with New Transfer Parole Review Date).</p>		
	<p>CSSD: CSSD research staff continues with bi-weekly workshops with CCSU faculty on statistics, research methods, report writing and presentation. Recent efforts have focused on presentation of internal program evaluation studies. Research projects conducted by outside vendors continue in the following areas: FWSN initiative and Family Support Centers Adult special probation projects Youth Offender New Haven Pilot Juvenile probation – Motivational Interviewing and Strengths-based Supervision Gender specific Juvenile Probation Bail Services – Bond Guidelines Family Violence – Domestic Violence Screening Inventory Validation</p>	NOTE: Many of these studies are being conducted with the help of outside expertise and external vendors. <i>Brian Hill agreed that once these studies are complete, he would be happy to share his experience regarding the overall performance of their vendors.</i>	

	<p>DMHAS: In October of 2008 DMHAS was awarded a \$2 million, 5-year federal grant to establish a jail diversion program in the southeast region for veterans struggling with trauma-related symptoms. The program will include support and collaboration from at least 15 federal and state agencies and organizations. Following a required 6-8 month strategic planning phase, DMHAS will implement a program to divert veterans with trauma-related symptoms from the criminal justice system to a seamless system of treatment and recovery support services. This program will build on the established DMHAS Jail Diversion program.</p>		
<p>Agency Updates Continued:</p>	<p>DPS: There are only about 200 CT State Police (CSP) arrests to be entered for 2006. There are about 4500 CSP arrests from 2007 missing from the NIBRS arrest module. There are currently two light duty troopers temporarily assigned to the Crimes Analysis unit (CAU) to assist in the data entry. The CAU is working on generating a trial run of the 2006 Crime in CT report to review the offense data. Once the 2006 CSP arrests are entered and imported into the NIBRS database, CAU will generate another run of the 2006 Crime in CT report to review all of the data. The CAU has been working with all of the 102 contributing agencies to ensure that all towns are represented in the 2008 Crime in the US publication. It appears that there will be two towns that will not make the FBI's March deadline: New Haven and New London.</p>		
	<p>DOC: DOC experienced a slight decrease in the overall incarcerated population by 47 offenders. The male un-sentenced population decreased by 103 and the sentenced male population increase by 75 offenders. The total number of offenders under supervision in the community remained essentially unchanged with an overall increase of 6 on parole and a reduction of 8 on transitional supervision. The DOC is preparing to close an out building at CRCI that houses 70 offenders which will save on personnel and building maintenance costs. The DOC hosted a reentry strategy symposium February 24th-26th attended by approximately 200 people from various criminal justice agencies which was well received.</p>	<p>By the end of today, DOC is moth-balling or temporarily closing another facility (Carl Robinson). All inmates are presently being transferred.</p>	
	<p>Judicial Court Operations: The Public Service and Trust Commission has established a Strategic Plan to guide the Judicial Branch over the next three to five years. The plan sets forth a framework to enhance the public's trust and confidence in the Branch by improving services, accessibility and accountability. The strategic plan contains a vision statement, a mission statement and core values to provide the framework within which the Branch will operate. Many members of the Court Operations Unit are support staff and/or members of various committees established by the strategic plan. One area of great interest for several of the committees is video conferencing. It is currently being used for Family Support Matters for inmate modification of support in Bridgeport, Hartford, Stamford, New Haven and Waterbury Courts. It is also being used in Rockville Court for Habeas Matters regarding conditions of confinement. Video conferencing has also been used for out of state witnesses for Complex Litigation. It can be used for other matters if so requested.</p>		

<p>BOPP Monthly Report: Training and Documentation</p>	<p>Jerry Stowell's contract will be ending June 30, 2009. During this transition, Jerry agreed to work with OPM to document the step by step process for producing these BOPP/DOC Monthly reports so that staff at both DOC and/or BOPP can maintain their information going forward. OPM is also scanning all available past documents to preserve the historical data for future use see DRAFT webpage at http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2976&Q=433798&PM=1.</p> <p>Unfortunately, Jerry accepted a position with the U.S. Census and is reporting for training on March 6, so he will no longer attend the CJPAC Research Workgroup meetings. Jerry has asked Rebecca Fleming to represent the Parole and Community Services Division. Welcome to Rebecca Fleming and Deputy Director, Joseph Haggan.</p> <p>Coordinate who will be receiving the MIS report distributions from DOC that Jerry is currently receiving. Send email to Bob Cosgrove with list of new recipients to receive these reports.</p> <p>Special thanks to Jerry Stowell for his dedicated service and our sincerest best wishes in his new endeavors. May our paths cross again in the future.</p>	<p>It was agreed that in order to ensure that the State and its agencies will receive the proper sustainable ability to replicate the reports and services that Jerry provides, we will ALL participate in a shared communication process pertaining to Jerry so that he will fulfill his obligation to complete the documentation necessary to transition his duties to both DOC and BOPP staff for all his reports, quarterly, monthly, annual and any associated duties. This includes building a narrative for the reports and identification of what useful information they may contain.</p>	
<p>Reentry in Connecticut: Partners in Progress</p>	<p>Congratulations to the Department of Correction and the Board of Pardons and Paroles for their success in hosting this event on February 24-26, 2009 at the Cheshire Maloney Center. Cheryl Cepelak provided a brief overview of the event. 180 to 200 attendees and reports from 9 workgroups. Outcome results to be provided by the Center for Public Policy.</p> <p>Dr. Patrick Hynes, DOC Director of Planning shared his thoughts on assessments tools. Dr. Hynes educated us on the Commissioners plans and shared his views for the project to date. Everyone participated in a very engaging discussion and shared their experiences and ideas on this issue.</p> <p>Rebecca Fleming made the point that the LSI-R is a useful tool for Parole Officers doing the actual supervision to use in their initial contact with clients since they get to know them better during the process.</p> <p>3 Recommendations were suggested for the next workgroup meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluation of recidivism rates for discrete group, such as Mental Health scores and solicit others from the group. Fact sheet to be developed for next workgroup meeting. 2. Correlation of TPAI scores with DOC classification scores. Fact sheets to be developed for next workgroup meeting. 	<p>Requested training materials and copies of presentation to be made available on the website so that those unable to attend will be able to acquire some of the knowledge shared at this event. Cheryl will follow-up on this.</p> <p>Pat will send an electronic copy of his presentation to post for those not attending the workgroup meeting.</p> <p>Issue of how to capture, share assessments with partners and how are these tools being applied for case management to help clients.</p> <p>Agreed that 3 question LSI-R Proxy, just as good as 8 question for screening risk levels.</p>	
<p>Other Information:</p>	<p>JRSA/BJS Computerized Criminal History RFP Felony Case Processing OPM Re-Entry Studies Update</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Pending comments from Randy Brarren and Steve Cox will be publishing his studies shortly. CT was awarded the CCH funds from JRSA; Steve will be attending a meeting in DC in April and will report back to the workgroup.</p>	

<p>New Business</p>	<p>CJIS Update Collaborative Data Requests for Research Purposes Both OPM and DMHAS have requested arrest data from DPS and have been asked to seek this information through OBTS. In an effort to evaluate OBTS as a means to acquire accurate and timely information the workgroup agreed to develop requests for two projects 1) Data required from all agencies for OPM's Monthly Indicators Report and 2) Standard data required to evaluate Arrests including the suspense file records.</p> <p><i>For the Arrest Data:</i> DMHAS reported that for their PPE analysis they use an abbreviated data set (no names or aliases and no sentencing info). The list we developed collaboratively contains a more extensive data extract for data linking and is geared more towards detailed analysis for evaluation or research purposes. The DMHAS Research Division has approved the list of variables and is fine with using the data items CSSD, at least for this next data linkage project. CSSD indicated the expanded DMHAS list was more inclusive so we will be submitting this to DOIT/CJIS. It was agreed to move forward on the Arrest Data Request first; CSSD will review their detailed fields to confirm. Once confirmation is received, a meeting will be setup with DOIT/CJIS staff and with interested workgroup members.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Al Bidorini and Brian Hill will draft a standard universal list of data variables for the Arrest Data typically used for research purposes. COMPLETED 2. Linda DeConti will ask individual agencies to provide the specific fields used to derive the data sent monthly for the OPM Monthly Indicators Report. 3. Both lists will be reviewed by the Workgroup. ARREST COMPLETED 4. Linda DeConti will setup a meeting with CJIS/DOIT staff to request and coordinate these projects as data extracts from OBTS. 	
	<p>Input/Oversight of Future Evaluation Studies (Expanded to Short Term and Long Term Projects; Not just Evaluation Studies) For future evaluation studies, the workgroup asked that OPM form an advisory group or subset of members to formulate and design specific research projects that would directly meet the needs of agencies and researchers in the workgroup. A DRAFT collaborative research projects/agenda was presented to the workgroup and we discussed changes to the projects and set priorities for recommended projects.</p>	<p>Linda Frisman will be able to attend the April workgroup meeting to discuss the work being done by their research group.</p> <p>Dr. Patrick Hynes, DOC Director of Planning will be doing a presentation at our NEXT meeting on Evaluations & Public Policy – <i>What Kinds of Research Should We Be Doing?</i>.</p>	
<p>Meeting Schedule:</p>	<p>Apr 08, 2009 – Court Operations, 225 Spring St., Rm. 204, Wethersfield May 13, 2009 – CVH, Page Hall, Middletown Jun 10, 2009 – CSSD, 4th Floor Conference Rm., Wethersfield Jul 08, 2009 – CVH, Page Hall, Middletown Aug 12, 2009 – DPS, 1111 Country Club Rd, Rm. 252, Middletown Sep 09, 2009 – DOC, MacDougall-Walker, 1153 East St. South, Suffield</p>	<p>Regular Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon</p>	