

Forecast/Research Workgroup Meeting
 Court Operations, 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield.
 October 17, 2007
 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon

Co-Chairs: Alyse A. Chin, Assistant Research Manager, (OPM) & Steve Cox, SAC Director (CCSU).

Present: Al Bidorini, Director of Planning, (DMHAS); Fred Levesque, Director of Offender Classification & Population Management and Jody Barry, Research Analyst in the MIS/Research Unit (DOC); Judith P. Lee, Esq., Case Flow Mgmt. Specialist, Court Operations; Susan C. Glass, Program Manager 1, Center for Research & Quality Improvement, (CSSD); Jerry Stowell, Consultant (BOPP & DOC); Lois Desmarais and Gary Lopez Planning Specialists, Crime Analysis Unit, and Tom Myers, IT Analyst 2, (DPS).

Excused: John E. Forbes, Assistant Director, CJPPD and Linda DeConti, Research Unit Manager, OPM; Lyndsay Ruffolo, Program Administrator Institute for the Study of Crime and Justice (CCSU); Brian Hill, Manager, CSSD; and Richard Sparaco, Parole & CS Manager (BOPP).

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
Introductions and Welcome:	The Forecast/Research Workgroup welcomed Tom Myers, Systems Analysis, DPS and Jody Barry, Research Analyst in the MIS/Research unit of DOC.	Tom will review agendas ahead of time to determine which meetings will be the best use of his time depending on the Workgroup's research projects. Jody Barry will be attending regularly with Fred to represent DOC.	On-going.
Acceptance of Minutes:	Alyse has received some feedback to the Minutes prior to the meeting and that feedback has been incorporated to the version that is posted on the OPM web site. September Minutes were accepted.	If there are any additional changes please email to Alyse at your earliest convenience.	
Agency Updates:	BOPP: Jerry Stowell reported that each case up for a parole hearing is being extensively reviewed as well as the cases that have already been approved for parole but not yet released. No one has yet been released to parole this month but it is anticipated that a few of those cases that were previously approved and then reviewed for a second time will be released in the next 2 or 3 weeks. There have been reports that there are about 1,200 non-violent offenders ready for release to Transitional Supervision (TS) but the number actually suitable for release is closer to 200-300, and most will be released over the next 2 - 3 weeks.	Please remember to email a copy of agency update before or after meetings to Linda DeConti and/or Alyse Chin. The meeting that was schedule for 10/4 with Linda, Alyse, Rich and Jerry was cancelled and needs to be rescheduled. Alyse/Linda will email Rich/Jerry to get best dates and times to reschedule. Jerry to check the distribution list for his Monthly Report because neither Linda nor Alyse are getting copies.	Each meeting. 10/23 – Linda emailed availability to Rich & Jerry. As soon as possible.

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Agency Updates (continued):	<p>CSSD: Susan Glass reported that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff attended the annual BJS conference in Pittsburgh and that it was very productive. 2. CSSD staff continue to support with data the CSSD recommendations to the Sentencing Task Force and the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission: <p>CJPAC Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PTP and TVU Expansion, ▪ Intensive Pretrial Supervision Track, ▪ Mental Health Case Management (MHCM), ▪ Statewide use of Bail Decision Aid <p>Sentencing Task Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Various pieces of Data on Instant Offense Burglary Client <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Final work plans for the adult special programs evaluations (PTP, TVU, MHCM, and Intensive Pretrial) will be received from CCSU this week. Focus groups and interviews with field staff will start in late October. 	<p>Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.</p>	<p>Each meeting.</p>
	<p>CCSU: Dr. Cox will incorporate his updates into various Agenda items as they are discussed.</p>	<p>Please remember to email a copy of agency update before or after meetings to Linda DeConti and/or Alyse Chin.</p> <p>Steve and Lyndsay are 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 that DMHAS and DOC are co-leading a committee assigned by the Alcohol and Drug Policy Council (ADPC), a statutorily defined public/private partnership. This Information Coordination Committee is charged with: 1) identifying opportunities for data sharing across state agencies that promote better public safety, care, and coordination, 2) reducing or eliminating duplication in data collection and reporting, 3) identifying barriers and resources to improved cross-agency communication and data sharing, and 4) exploring the possibility of developing a communication strategy such as an e-newsletter. The Committee held its first meeting on October 15, 2007 and included representatives from CSSD, DOC, DMHAS, and a community substance abuse provider serving criminal justice clients. The Department of Information Technology will be sending a representative to future meetings.</p> <p>The Committee discussed, as its first recommendation, the sharing of treatment information (mental health and addiction services) for those criminal justice clients released to the community (bail diversion, probation, split-sentenced, DOC community supervision). Under this model, state criminal justice agencies and DMHAS would work in concert to share information. Independent information systems would reside as they do now in each agency and pertinent data elements would be shared through probabilistic (i.e., matching on key person identifying data elements) data linking. Benefits of such an information sharing system include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) improved treatment planning, e.g., pre-release to the community from DOC; 2) enhanced coordination of care in the community; 3) increased public safety; 4) reduced duplication of effort; and 5) cost effectiveness through reduction in recidivism rates. <p>Discussion of confidentiality concerns is ongoing. Draft recommendations will be presented at future ADPC meetings in November and December for their consideration prior to submittal of report to Governor Rell and the General Assembly.</p>	<p>Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.</p> <p>The Workgroup expressed interested in this project and AI agreed to circulate the draft report to members.</p>	<p>Each meeting.</p> <p>December 12, meeting.</p>

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Agency Updates (continued):	DOC: Fred Levesque reported that DOC continues to feel the effects of the recent events that occurred in the Community. DOC has been experiencing a significant reduction in the number of offenders being released on discretionary release programs. In addition, there has been a reduction in the number of offenders being reviewed for community programs which will impact the agency census in the future. DOC has also experienced an increase in community release technical violations, returning offenders with no new release dates. The un-sentenced male population continues to slowly increase adding to an already high number. DOC's overall incarcerated population rose from approximately 19,125 inmates on 9/01/07 to 19,414 inmates on 10/01/07.	Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.	Each meeting.
	Court Operations: Judy Lee reported that many new Public Acts took effect on October 1 st . This required Court Operations to develop new policy and procedures for the courts. Court Operations continues with Phase III of the web access project. Testing continues and it is still anticipated that the disclosable conviction information will be available on the Internet in early 2008. In August 2003 PRAWN (Paperless Re-arrest Warrant Network) was established. It enhances law enforcement by allowing any police department to make an arrest for a failure to appear (FTA) charge by printing an electronic warrant off the database. Violation of probation warrants will be added to PRAWN in the near future. Testing is currently being done.	Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.	Each meeting.
	DPS: Gary Lopez reported that The Department of Public Safety has hired a consultant to re-write the Family Violence Database. The 20 year old database has over 400,000 incident records depicting family violence offenses that resulted in arrest and 600,000 names of individuals that were victims, offenders or both/all (victim and offender in the same incident). With the new database it will ensure law enforcement, government, advocates and researchers, valuable information that can provide insight to the volume, location and demographic factors associated with family violence. The database also provides a rich foundation to address topical concerns as dual arrest, dating relationships, and the use of alcohol/drugs in family violence. The Department of Public Safety is appreciative of the assistance given by OPM, specifically Theron Schnure and Lisa Secondo in securing federal grants to fund this program.	Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.	

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Agency Updates (continued):	<p>DPS (continued): Lois Desmarais reported that Crimes Analysis sent a representative to the annual Association of State Uniform Crime Reporting Programs (ASUCRP) conference 10/1-10/4/07 in Michigan. The BJS has grant money for the UCR state programs to team up with the state Statistical Analysis Centers for research and data analysis purposes. DPS is interested in exploring such collaborations with Steve Cox.</p> <p>DPS hopes to release the 2005 Crime in CT publication by the end of the year at the latest. New Haven's December 2005 data have been received. However, there is one vendor who still has high error percentages for 2005, 2006 and 2007. Twenty of the law enforcement agencies have contracted with this vendor, so DPS met with the vendor recently in an effort to clean up his agencies' reports prior to publishing the 2005 annual report. This is not the first time that DPS has tried to work with this vendor. Seeing that the 2005 report has been held up so long, it was thought that one last effort to clean up this vendor's data should be made. However, for 2006 going forward, the annual Crime in CT reports will be published with additional tables showing the months for which law enforcement agencies are missing data. It is not helpful to publish the annual reports in such an untimely manner, particularly for those participating agencies that have submitted their data on time.</p>	Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.	Each meeting.
OPM Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report:	<p>The October Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report had been posted to the OPM web site.</p> <p>Fred suggested that the numbers for re-parole be included in the Monthly Report. Jerry said that he already broke these numbers out and could easily send them every month along with the other parole numbers.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion about including rates in the Monthly Report but we agreed that rates can more easily be misinterpreted and that we would just continue to present actual numbers.</p>	<p>Copies of the Reports are available at: www.ct.gov/opm/criminaljustice/research</p> <p>Alyse will discuss this suggestion with Linda and John and let Jerry know whether he should send re-parole numbers to be included in the monthly report.</p>	Update next meeting.

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Burglary Crimes and Convictions in CT:	Steve reported that the Connecticut Burglary Analysis presentation to the Sentencing Task Force on October 2 went well. It is interesting to note the (high) impact of the plea bargaining system in Connecticut on the data e.g. there are relatively few Burglary 1 and the numbers for Burglary 2 and 3 are inflated because the lesser crime is convicted on a plea bargain. Steve will be attending the Sentencing Structure Subcommittee meeting next Tuesday to present information on Felony murder convictions in 2004 that include a predicated burglary offense as requested by Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney.	Steve's presentation will be at the next Sentencing Structure Subcommittee meeting scheduled for October 23, 2007 LOB, Room 2D at 2:30 p.m. Steve will contact Undersecretary Brian Austin to finalize presentation and Alyse will email confirmation of meeting time and a copy of agenda to Steve as soon as possible.	Agenda emailed October 19th.
Annual Offender Re-Entry Strategy Plan:	<p>Alyse distributed for discussion copies of the WSIPP article "Evidence-based Public Policy Options to Reduce Future Prison Construction, Criminal Justice Costs, and Crime Rates".</p> <p>Steve Cox said that the would be a good idea to try to replicate Exhibit 3 for Connecticut to show the crime rate and the amount of money taxpayers spend per household on the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Maybe some of these evidence-based options that are effective in reducing crime and producing favorable returns on investment could be implemented in Connecticut, and if there are already such programs here, maybe they could be expanded as part of our Offender Re-Entry Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Fred mentioned that DOC also has its own re-entry work group.</p>	On- going.	On-going.
2008 Annual Recidivism Study:	<p><u>Work Plan:</u> We will be revising the recidivism study's work plan at our meeting next Thursday, especially the timelines. Feedback to the Research Design from last meeting has been incorporated into the work plan.</p> <p><u>Study:</u> The DOC data for the Recidivism Study has been prepared and is ready for Steve's review. DOC has been extremely busy with Burglary Projects.</p> <p>Steve reported that there will be a special piece on Burglary and that we should have a basic analysis done by mid to end of November.</p>	<p>Now that the DOC data is ready, Steve, Linda and Alyse will resume their weekly meetings to being work on the recidivism study.</p> <p>The 2008 Annual Recidivism Study Report is due to the Governor and Legislature on February 15, 2008.</p>	<p>Thursday October 25 from 12:15 – 2 pm at CCSU.</p> <p>Update on 2008 Recidivism Study each meeting.</p>

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2008 Annual Prison Population Projection Report:	<p>Steve Cox reported briefly that the Colorado SAC simulation model replicates everybody in the State's population, using projections from the Colorado State Demographer. It is very data intense, home-grown model. So we will also need data from Judy Lee in addition to the DOC data. Steve reported that the Colorado SAC generously gave him all their data and spreadsheets and the plan is to run our model and theirs, side by side, to see how the results compare.</p> <p>Jody Barry reported that the Sentence Time Calculation (STC) Project implementation date has not been determined as yet. Steve and Jody will be looking at sentence time served data together because we need to get to "length of time served," which historically has been difficult to get and inaccurate. Jody reported that there will be improvements when the STC project is in place since the Marquis eOMIS module DOC is purchasing mainly deals with sentence time calculations.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The 2008 Annual Prison Population Projection Study Report is due to the Governor and Legislature on February 15, 2008.</p>	Update at the November meeting.
JRSA National Conference:	<p>Many of the Workgroup members attended the JRSA National Conference in Pittsburgh October 11 & 12, and said that it was very productive and that it was important to take time out each year to network and share ideas with colleagues nationally that do the same type of work that we do.</p> <p>Susan said that attending this conference reminded her that one of our goals is to develop a repository of information that we can share/use for research projects.</p> <p>There was a general discussion about the OBTS and that it might still be as much as 5 more years before we can get any meaningful/useful data out of the system, especially for research purposes.</p>	<p>On-going discussions would be needed to further articulate such a data repository e.g. how to develop a data inventory of what each agency in the Forecast/Research Workgroup has and can share, where to put such a repository, who would own it, a unique common identifier, the role of DOIT, how such a repository would relate to the OBTS Initiative, and the most cost effective way to go forward.</p> <p>Steve mentioned that Vermont had a web-based model, and although there are relatively small numbers of crimes it might be worth taking a closer look at it.</p>	
Other:	Alyse reported that a CJIS/OBTS Public Access Database is under discussion with CJIS Board, and that some future meeting(s) will be used to get Workgroup input/involvement.	Alyse will explore the possibility of having Terry Schnure attend a future Workgroup meeting to update us on CJIS/OBTS.	Report back at the November meeting.
Meeting Schedule:	<p>November 7 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – CCSU, Student Center, Blue and White Room, New Britain.</p> <p>December 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 and send directions as needed.</p> <p>Visit our Forecast/Research Workgroup web pages at: www.ct.gov/opm/CriminalJustice/ForecastingWorkgroup</p>	Monthly.