

Forecast/Research Workgroup Meeting
 CCSU – Student Center, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain.
 January 9, 2008
 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon

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

Present: Al Bidorini, Director of Planning, (DMHAS); Alyse Chin, Research Unit Assistant Manager, CJPPD, OPM; Jody Barry, Research Analyst in the MIS/Research Unit and Fred Levesque, Director of Offender Classification & Population Management (DOC); Gary Lopez Planning Specialists, Crime Analysis Unit, DPS; Jerry Stowell, Consultant (BOPP & DOC); Lyndsay Ruffolo and Aileen Keyes, 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 Richard Sparaco, Parole & CS Manager (BOPP).

Excused: Steve Cox, SAC Director (CCSU); John Forbes, Assistant Division Director, CJPPD, OPM; Lois Desmarais, Planning Specialists, Crime Analysis Unit, (DPS); Judith P. Lee, Esq., Case Flow Mgmt. Specialist, Court Operations; and Tom Myers, IT Analyst 2, (DPS);

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
Acceptance of Minutes:	The Minutes from the December meeting were accepted as written.	Alyse will post December Minutes to the web site at: www.ct.gov/opm/CriminalJustice/ForecastingWorkgroup	Done.
Announcements:	<p>There were two announcements / reminders:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building Bridges III: An Examination of Connecticut's Re-entry Policy, January 17, 2008 from 8:30AM-4PM 2. Bureau of Justice Assistance Regional Conference is being held right here in Hartford, January 29-31, 2008 <p>On-line registration is available for both, and at no cost to the participants.</p>	All members are encouraged to attend both events, schedules permitting.	
Agency Updates:	<p>OPM: Linda DeConti circulated DRAFT copies of the two new OPM publications for members to review and provide feedback as soon as possible.</p> <p>These publications are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comparative Analysis of Probation, Parole and Incarceration: CT, US and Other States 1996-2006 2. Probation and Parole as a Percentage of Sentenced Prisoners: CT, US and Other States 1996-2006 <p>Linda also distributed copies of the ABC News brief entitled "Big Cities See Violent Crime Dip" from Under Secretary Brian Austin.</p>	<p>Linda will email electronic versions of these drafts to members today for their review and feedback.</p> <p>Copies of both publications will be available at the OPM website when completed.</p>	Monthly.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
<p>Agency Updates Continued:</p>	<p>BOPP: Rich Sparaco reported that prior to the Cheshire Incident and subsequent ban on “violent” offenders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 108 cases were heard on average by full panel hearings (3 members) with 7 hearings per month; • 157 cases were heard on average by administrative reviews (3 member panels) with 4 hearings per month; 99 cases were heard for revocation and rescissions by Hearing Officers and by the Board at subsequent administrative reviews. (BOPP September 2006 – 2007) <p>Therefore the Board reviewed 364 cases with 11 hearing dates per month resulting in a Parole grant rate of 85% per month. This resulted in an average net reduction of 101 inmates per month.</p> <p>Since the Cheshire Incident and the subsequent ban on “violent” offenders coupled with the need to request P.S.I.’s and Transcripts, there have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 cases hear by full panel hearings • 139 cases heard by administrative review panels and 121 cases heard for revocation and rescissions with Administrative Reviews expanded to 11 hearing dates per month. (BOPP October - Dec 2007) <p>Therefore the Board was only able to review 260 cases and the grant rate fell to 74%. This grant rate when coupled with the reduction in cases heard as well as the increase in parole revocations resulted in an average net increase of 10 inmates per month.</p> <p>To date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx 582 cases have been continued (432 full panel cases and 150 Administrative Reviews/Re-Reviews including revocation and rescissions)(October 2007 up to and through January 2008.) 	<p>Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.</p>	<p>Monthly.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
<p>Agency Update Continued</p>	<p>BOPP: Therefore, if the ban on violent offenders were lifted on February 1, 2008, we would need an average of 7 additional parole officers for four months (including one month for initial file preparations.) This would allow for the 17 additional hearing dates (3 member panels) to address the backlog that is resulting in the net monthly increase to the prison population.</p> <p>For each additional month the ban is continued the prison population will be increased by approximately 120 inmates per month. This increase will continue for next seven months. Under the current circumstances with the ban on parole for violent offenders, Jerry Stowell estimates that the facility population will most likely exceed 20,000 by the end of March 2008 and possibly 20,800 by October 2008.</p>		
	<p>CSSD: Brian Hill reported on the following CSSD Research and Evaluation initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The two-year evaluation findings for the Probation Transition Program and Technical Violation Unit were received by CSSD from CCSU in mid-December. The special probation programs have shown positive and long-term effects on technical violation rates and subsequent incarceration rates when compared to a matched historical comparison group. CSSD will be releasing the two-year addendum report in January. 2. Research staff continues to support Judicial Branch efforts on the Sentencing Task Force, Governor's Sentencing and Parole Review Task Force and the CJPAC. Many recommendations were submitted as part of those groups. 3. The first phase expansion of the Contractor Data Collection System was completed on 12/31/07. There are now nearly fifty provider programs under contract with the Judicial Branch who are using the web-based data collection system. Phase II of the expansion will commence this spring. 	<p>Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.</p>	<p>Each meeting.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
Agency Update Continued:	DPS: Gary Lopez reported that DPS Crime Analysis Unit has hired a research analyst that will be used to train police departments in NIBRS and UCR. The person will also play a role in the compilation of reports and work on data quality issues of the unit's reporting programs. Gary also indicated that the unit has also submitted paperwork to fill a newly vacant, Associate Research Analyst Position that will supervise a number of the unit's reporting programs. Finally, the "New Haven Police Department is hiring people in the Records Room but they are still almost two year's behind in their NIBRS submissions.	Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.	Each meeting.
	DOC: The DOC did not experience any significant changes in the incarcerated population or offenders being supervised in the community. There was a decrease of 184 sentenced incarcerated inmates and a decrease of 92 un-sentenced inmates. The Community had a reduction of 66 offenders supervised under discretionary release programs and anticipates that number to continue to decline. The DOC expects the incarcerated population to increase throughout the month of January 2008 with the sentenced males being the largest increase. DOC continues to manage inmates in non- traditional overflow areas within our Correctional facilities. Carl Robinson CI reopened two 114 beds dormitories to assist with the increasing population.	Electronic copy of agency update received. Thanks.	Each meeting.
OPM Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report:	Copies of the Draft January Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report were distributed.	Please send any feedback to Alyse. The January Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report will be available at: www.ct.gov/opm/criminaljustice/research no later than by the end of business on January 15 th .	Done.
BOPP Monthly Report:	Jerry distributed copies of his November BOPP Monthly Report. Alyse and Jerry have consolidated all the various worksheets into one excel spreadsheet and are mocking up the tables and charts into a Microsoft Word document with page numbers, an executive summary and appendix with glossary and counting rules.	Jerry will update the group on progress each meeting.	On-going.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
2008 Annual Recidivism & Prison Population Projection Studies:	Steve had another commitment and could not do the presentation today. He has proposed rescheduling the presentation in two weeks. The group agreed on January 24 th at 1:00 p.m. Lyndsay agreed to confirm the date and time with Steve and reserve a room for the presentation. All Forecast/Research Workgroup Members are encouraged to attend.	After the meeting, Lyndsay confirmed that Steve will do the presentation of the methodology/ model used, and how numbers are derived for the Recidivism & Projection Studies on January 24 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in the Charlton Room, Student Center, CCSU. The 2008 Annual Recidivism Study Report is due to the Governor and Legislature on February 15, 2008.	Done.
Annual Offender Re-Entry Strategy Plan:	The Building Bridges Conference at CCSU is focused on Connecticut's Re-entry Policy and should be helpful in regards to writing the Re-entry Plan.		January 9, 2008
Meeting Schedule:	February 13, 2008 10:00am – 12:00 pm - CVH, Merritt Hall, Finkelstein Room, Middletown. March 12, 2008 10:00am – 12:00 pm – DPS, Crime Analysis Unit, 1111 Country Club Road, Room 252.	We need a host agency for April 2008 meeting please.	Done.