

SAC Grant Administration

Meeting Summary

September 06, 2007

12:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Present: Linda DeConti, Research Unit Manager, Steve Cox, CT SAC Director, Alyse Chin, Research Unit Assistant Manager, Lyndsay Ruffolo, Program Administrator, Institute for the Study of Crime and Justice, and Ivan Kuzyk, former consultant to the U.S. Attorney's Office and Project Safe Neighborhood.

Purpose: Weekly meetings (two hour sessions from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m.) directly with Dr. Cox at CCSU to provide all the knowledge, technical resources and tools necessary to fully transfer the capability of producing the next versions of the annual statutorily required State of Connecticut Recidivism Study and the Annual Connecticut Prison Population Projections Report to OPM/CJPPD Research Staff.

2008 Annual Recidivism Study:

- Steve Cox distributed the latest Research Design Framework handout for the 2008 Annual Recidivism Study.
- Reviewed Research Design Framework (asked to be sent electronically)
- Clarification of deliverables and associated target dates for each item. The date of the data request is being changed from 2003 to 2004, since 2004 is the first full year of data collected in CMIS.

Request for DOC **four data files** (to Bob Cosgrove and PeiTii Lee) will be made on September 14 with a due date of September 21 (cc: OPM)

- 1) inmate demographics (demographics.txt) "Master File"
 - 2) sentencing data (sentence.txt)
 - 3) all inmate movements (DOCCodes.txt) definition of the datasets
 - 4) inmate risk and need scores prior to release (*NEW Methodology improvement recommended by Dr. James Austin)
- CCSU Dr. Cox will receive data files on September 21 from DOC and load all these records into MSAccess. Dr. Cox will send the 1) inmate demographics (demographics.txt) "Master File" with SPBIs via email Winzip files to CSSD Brian Hill before September 24 (cc:OPM)
 - On September 24, CSSD will match inmates to their criminal history files by running these records through CMIS for all arrest and convictions by SPBI and Date, creating a new file format from Brian Hill that will be an easier match. CSSD will email back to CCSU Dr. Cox on or before September 28 (cc: OPM)
 - On October 4 CCSU Dr. Cox working with OPM/CJPPD Staff will use a stratified sample pulled out by movement codes for each type of supervision, parole, TS, etc... This will be a manual look at 800 inmates, a statistically significant sample of the estimated 10,000 total records analyzed. This will look at inmates and their movement between facilities out and back using SPSS. The result will be the Length of Time Served and any Technical Violations.

- Using SPSS to determine re-incarceration rates especially for inmates on community release.

Simultaneously...

NEW Probationer Study (Additional information CSSD and CJPAC requested)

- On September 24, Dr. Cox will request data from CSSD (cc: OPM)
- On September 28 CSSD will provide an electronic list of all sentenced offenders (cc: OPM)
- On or before October 4 CCSU working with OPM and CSSD will draw a sample stratified by supervision level and send an email request for additional data on the sample of probationers from CSSD. (cc: OPM)
- CCSU will receive additional data from CSSD and perform analysis with OPM/CSSD (cc: OPM)

ACTION: Dr. Cox will provide OPM with a DOC Movement Code reference guide in hardcopy OPM will convert document into electronic data file for posting on website to share with all agencies – scan/OCR

ACTION: New version of handout with 2004 study parameters and more detailed steps, including timeframe for deliverables to be **emailed electronically** to Alyse and Linda for review before this Friday, September 7, 2007 - before Dr. Cox sends to Forecast/Research Workgroup for review.

ACTION: Dr. Steve Cox will share finalized version of the Research Design Framework with the Forecast/Research Workgroup before the meeting on Wednesday, September 12, 2007.

- OPM/CJPPD Staff to be included and copied on ANY and ALL emails generated by CCSU concerning this project. This includes, but not limited to data requests, methodology/research design inquiries, and contact with other SAC Directors and/or national experts.

2008 Annual Prison Population Projection Report:

- Define Research Design Framework to outline deliverables and target dates.
- The research design for this report will probably be much the same as last year's. The methodology used to develop 5 year & 20 year trends on the DOC dataset was a straight line analysis using SPSS (AREMA Model). Can do "what if" scenarios with the straight line model.
- **ACTION:** Steve Cox will ask his CCSU Software Purchasing contact (Lisa?) about getting two copies of SPSS for OPM/CJPPD Staff. Under the University contract the cost is \$200 compared to \$2400 for the full package license.
ACTION: Alyse will investigate the cost and dates for her to attend an Intro to SPSS Training in NYC that Lyndsay took.
- **NEW:** The 2008 report will include projections for all areas of community supervision, not just the incarcerated population.
QUESTION: Can we get the DOC dataset by 1) classification level according to Fred this is possible with active only; 2) sentenced vs. pre-trial population; 3) male/female

- **NEW** potential items in the 2008 report:
 Median Family Income
 School Drop-Out Rates
 Length of Time Served** – Ask PeiTl if there is ANY way to get this information.
 ** DMHAS reported that they tried to get this information, but was not able to do so with their study with any reliable outcomes.
 Length of Time Pre-trial/Accused Unsentenced Population Incarcerated
 Younger Population
- Prophet Projection and Simulation Model: Steve Cox looked at the write up provided by Dr. James Austin for this simulation model, but without the actual model it is difficult to make any real determination of its usefulness. One significant difference is that the DOC data current used takes into account the inmates that are going in and out of prison facilities, however, the Prophet Model ONLY looks at the sentenced offenders.
- **ACTION:** OPM Brian Austin will request from Dr. James Austin a functional demonstration version of the model that Connecticut already paid for or for a follow-up demonstration to better evaluate the model and to take a closer look at the probability assignments within the Prophet model. We will compare this model to the Colorado model; the information has not been forthcoming to date by Dr. Austin with the Colorado SAC Director.
- Colorado Model: The State of Colorado, SAC Director – Kim English, has developed its own simulation model that replicates everybody in the State's population, using projections from the Colorado State's demographer. ****This has a built-in capture/re-capture model.* We may not have this before the 2008 report is due to the Governor and the Legislature on February 15, 2008, but we need to evaluate the merits of using this type of simulation model for *"what if" scenarios and how the results compare to our current approach* using the straight line (AREMA Model) in SPSS.
ACTION: Steve will contact Kim English to see if we can obtain a copy of their prison population projection model and the methods used by their State demographer to forecast their population inputs. (cc: OPM)
ACTION: OPM will contact DPH Lloyd Miller for data inputs (birth/death records) for the overall State of Connecticut Populations projections.
- 2008 Prison Population Projection Report due to the Governor and the Legislature on February 15, 2008.
ACTION: New footnotes and caveats to be included throughout the 2008 report that will note that these projections do not take into account the future changes being considered by the Sentencing Task Force and potential Three-Strikes legislations that may be passed in the upcoming session.

SAC Director Responsibilities:

- Provide timely technical assistance and expert opinion on impromptu issues and questions raised by OPM (such as the STF Burglary Crimes/Convictions In Connecticut Project)
ACTION: Dr. Cox will look at all the email responses made by the Forecast/Research Workgroup members concerning answering the key questions for OPM Brian Austin and make any recommendations for the best approach to take to accomplish this task.

Ivan Kuzyk, U.S. Attorney Office/Consultant:

- Ivan Kuzyk, who works with the U.S. Attorney's Office and Project Safe Neighborhood, did a presentation on his Violence Severity Index at OPM. We invited Mr. Kuzyk to join us with CCSU Dr. Cox to discuss his ideas on the current Burglary Convictions Special Project. He basically said that these two individuals involved in the Cheshire Home Invasion would not have shown up on any VSI or predictability scale as this was one of those 100 year anomalies. According to Lyndsay, the STF is mainly concerned with the questions that CCSU raised.
- We invited Mr. Kuzyk to the next Forecast/Research Work group meeting on September 12 to listen to the data concerns from the various participants on the current Burglary Convictions Special Project.
ACTION: Linda will call Fred Levesque to place Mr. Kuzyk on the list for entry to the meeting and tour of the facility on September 12.
- Also we asked Ivan about looking at persistent offenders. The problem is pleas, an offender may be charged but the weapons charge is dropped for a lesser plea.
- Another outcome of the discussion was the need to build a parallel or central database repository similar to OFAs so that we have the in-house capability within OPM for adhoc queries to answer basic questions and to do ongoing analyses (OBTS... not a viable option for the short term or long term?). Ivan states that he has strong skills in database development and analysis using SPSS, SQL and Access. As a potential long-term project the development of this type of database could be an opportunity for Ivan to do contract work with CCSU under our direction. We asked Ivan to share his consulting rates and we would work with him on the development of a proposal after the FRW meeting. We also discussed the need to establish with the FRW data standards and the need to establish quality controls (initials, or some assurances if not already being done) for accurate data inputs and a realization by State agency staff the value of data and how it is used.
ACTION: Linda add an agenda item to include the discussion of such a database and to talk about data quality issues and how we can set policies in this area.
ACTION: Linda will talk to OPM Brian Austin about potentially setting up a meeting with Susan Shimelman at OFA to obtain a copy of their two year old database as a starting place for us to build a parallel data system.

The meeting ended at approximately 2:30 a.m.

FYI NOTE:

Major State Agency Data Systems:

1. DMHAS – DPAS
2. DCF – CONDUIT
3. JIS – CRMVS
4. CSSD – CMIS
5. DPS – Criminal History
6. DOC – No Name