

CJPAC Research Workgroup Meeting

CVH, Page Hall, Room 217

January 15, 2009

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

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

Present: Dr. Pablo Martinez, Texas State University; John Forbes, Assistant Division Director (OPM), Ivan Kuzyk, Research Unit Assistant Manager (OPM), Al Bidorini, Director of Planning (DMHAS); Brian Hill, Manager (CSSD); Susan Glass, Program Manager (CSSD); Carol Salsbury, Deputy Commissioner (DOC); Jody Barry, Associate Research Analyst (DOC); Michelle Altomare, Associate Research Analyst (DOC), Patrick Hynes, Director of Planning (DOC); John Lahda, Executive Director (BOPP); Jerry Stowell, Consultant (BOPP); Lois Desmarais, Planning Specialist (DPS), Orlando Rodriguez, Manager/CT State Data Center; Chris Reinhart, Esq., Senior Attorney (OLR); Andrew Clark and Aileen Keays (CCSU)

Excused: Fred Levesque, Director (DOC), Cheryl Cepelak, Director (DOC), Judy Lee, Case flow Management Specialist (Court Operations); Loel Meckel, Asst. Director Forensic Services; Rich Sparaco, Parole/Community Services Manager (BOPP), Tom Myers, IT Analyst 2(DPS); Charles Martie, Education Consultant (SDE);

Absent: Steve Cox, CT SAC Director (CCSU); Alan Calandro, Section Chief (OFA)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS and DELIVERABLES	DATE
Acceptance of Minutes:	The Minutes from the December meeting were accepted as written.		
Monthly Indicators Report:	The January 2009 Monthly Indicators was available; and an update on the current population forecast discussed.		
Prison Forecasting Model:	Prison forecasting model developed by Dr. Pablo Martinez, at Texas State University was presented to workgroup members. Dr. Martinez discussed the data needs in detail and next steps to completing the model for use in Connecticut.		
Annual Recidivism Study:	A draft of the Study was presented and discussed.	Ivan contacted CJPAC executives and made modifications to the violent offender definition criteria.	
Agency Updates:	<p>BOPP: There were 31 hearings in December. For the month of December 230 persons were granted parole and 42 were denied. The grant rate was 85%. In addition, 50 were revoked and re-paroled and 23 were rescinded and re-paroled. In December 146 persons were released to parole and transfer parole. This is 77% of the monthly average for FY2007. 339 persons were released to TS or Transitional Placement in December. This is 142% of the monthly average for FY2007.</p>		
	<p>CSSD: 1. CSSD has begun planning for the FY2010-FY2012 agency strategic plan 2. Research unit staff have been working for the past month on developing and deploying Risk Reduction Indicators reports for each of CSSD's disciplines. The focus of these reports has been primarily on delivering near real-time feedback on 6-8 process and outcome indicators that are associated with reductions in recidivism. CSSD is using Dundas For Reporting Services to deliver these dynamic reports on a quarterly basis to field and central office stakeholders.</p>		

	<p>3. Research staff continued to support adult probation efforts to reduce caseload sizes through data analysis and caseload projections.</p>		
	<p>DMHAS: In September, Connecticut received five years of funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to test strategies for implementing evidence-based practices in criminal justice and addictions treatment settings. The Connecticut Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Treatment Studies (CJ-DATS) Center represents a collaboration between the UConn School of Social Work, CT DMHAS, CT DOC, and UCHC, but investigators hope to work closely with the Judicial Branch and DCF as well. The Principal Investigator is DMHAS's Director of Research, Linda Frisman, Ph.D., also a Research Professor in the UConn School of Social Work. Dr. Frisman received funding through an earlier NIDA CJ-DATS award that involved testing models of care for criminal offenders with addictive disorders. Both the original and the current grants are cooperative agreements supporting studies across several sites nationally. Dr. Frisman and her co-Principal Investigator Daniel Bannish, PsyD, DOC's Acting Director of Behavioral Health, are part of a national Steering Committee making decisions about which studies to conduct. CJ-DATS will involve studies on at least three areas: assessment, intervention, and HIV care. NIDA partners are also encouraging studies about medications for addictions, such as Naltrexone. Each study must focus on practices that are already established as evidence-based. The new research will be intervention studies, i.e., research about how best to implement the evidence-based practices. For example, a study might focus on two methods of training prison-based addiction staff to conduct treatment need assessments prior to release. CT CJ-DATS researchers expect that the selected studies will mainly focus on community re-entry of prisoners with addiction disorders. Because the same 3 – 4 studies will be conducted by all the CJ-DATS centers across the country, the CT partners do not have complete autonomy in decisions about which studies to undertake. But neither will CT bear the burden of testing models by itself. Other funded CJ-DATS Centers are University of Kentucky, Texas Christian University, and Arizona State University. NIDA expects to fund approximately 4 more research centers this spring. The first study may be launched this summer.</p>		
<p>Agency Updates Continued:</p>	<p>DPS: DPS generated the final 2005 annual Crime in CT report, which we have requested be posted on our website by 1/31/09. The CT State Police (CSP) missing arrests for 2006-2008 continue to be manually entered. There are some differences of opinion regarding the appropriateness of an automated solution to the missing arrests, which will be discussed in a DPS meeting on January 13th. SEARCH at the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics is near completion of a NIEM-conformant XML schema. The schema will be used as a standard format for electronic submission of Family Violence arrest data from law enforcement agencies. DPS will be interviewing by the week of January 19th to hire a consultant through the state's IT professional services contract. The consultant will complete the final phase of the process (i.e., import and validate the XML data, generate error reports, and transfer the data to final</p>		

	tables). The remaining NCHIP05-04 grant funds will be expended by payment of the consultant. The grant ends March 31, 2009.		
	<p>DOC: The DOC experienced a modest decrease from the 1st of December to the 1st of January. There was a total overall reduction in the incarcerated population by 198 offenders. The most notable decrease was with the sentenced male population by 233 during the month. Our agency continued to close overflow areas to include an overflow dorm at Bergin CI and the remainder of the Fenwick building at Gate CI. In addition to the Fenwick building at Gate's, DOC was able to close the Trumbull building which housed 126 offenders. In closing these buildings, not only did the DOC reduce the number of Correctional Officer overtime posts, but reduced the amount of services provided to maintain these buildings ie. heat, hot water, transportation to from the main Gate's compound to name a few.</p> <p>An update on our SVORI 3-day Symposium: Invitations were sent out this week; we're looking at about 220 people, majority DOC along with our CJPAC agency partners and some community partners. The event will be held at our DOC Training Academy in Cheshire February 24 - 26th.</p>		
	<p>Judicial Court Operations: No Update.</p>		
Other Information:	JRSA/BJs Computerized Criminal History RFP Felony Case Processing OPM Re-Entry Studies Update by Steve Cox		
Meeting Schedule:	<p>February 11, 2009 – CVH, Page Hall, Middletown March 11, 2009 – CVH/Merritt Hall, Sid Finkelstein Room, Middletown April 08, 2009 – Location TBD May 13, 2009 – Location TBD June 10, 2009 – Location TBD</p>		